

WILL WEEZER DO IT?

In an interview ahead of their *Jisan* show, the band agrees to our 'double-dare' to take up 'Gangnam Style' – kind of

Groove is Korea's English magazine. Find out what's new, what's news and what there is to do.

GROOVE

KOREA • Issue 81 / July 2013

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SUMMER SIPS

10 IRRESISTIBLE BEERS

Your thirst is great. You must drink beer – light beer, crisp beer, beer that tastes like orange and grapefruit and has the golden color of summer wheat. You need refreshing beer to quench your thirst. Summer beer.

10 PLACES TO TAKE YOUR PARENTS

Here's a cheat sheet that will satisfy any visitor to Seoul.

STOCKS RIPE FOR THE PICKING

Consider investing in Korean stocks — especially preferred shares, writes Groove Korea columnist Daniel Tudor.

IN SEARCH OF PERFECT PIZZA

That's what you get when you import a brick oven from Italy and recruit a Bolognese pizza master to share his secrets.

CAN SHAMANISM SURVIVE ON JEJU?

The decline of the island's dialect has had dire consequences for Jeju's centuries-old traditions.

THE PIANIST FROM PYONGYANG

Most flee North Korea because of poverty or famine. Kim Cheol-woong fled artistic repression.

HOW TO BE A KOREAN WOMAN

Sun Mee Chomet reflects on her search to redefine for herself what it means to be a Korean woman.

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Exhibition Hall 2 **Foundation of the Republic of Korea (1945~1960)**
Exhibition Hall 3 **Development of the Republic of Korea (1961~1987)**
Exhibition Hall 4 **Modernization and Korea's Vision of Future (1988~)**
Other Facilities **Rooftop garden, Museum shop, Cafe are available**

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Evening Opening April to October, every Thursday 9:00~21:00, Entry to museum until 20:00

Closed Every Monday, January 1, When Monday is holiday the museum is closed on the next day

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Foreign Languages Foreign visitors of companies or institutions, group of foreigners with the reservation in advance of visiting (English, Japanese, Chinese are provided)



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클래지콰이 프로젝트 / 테디보이즈

PLACEBO / THE DANDY WARHOLS

8.3.SATURDAY.

노브레인 / DR. RING DING SKA-VAGANZA / 델리스파이스 / DOBERMAN / DEERHOOF /
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TEAM BONER^{NEW} / 해리빅버튼

Jamiroquai / switchfoot

8.4.SUNDAY.

NY물고기^{NEW} / 레이저본 / 물렁겐^{NEW} / BAGAGEE VIPHEX 13 / 브로콜리너마저 / SHANELL^{NEW} / 술탄오브더디스코^{NEW} /
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WHAT GROOVE IS, AND WHAT IT ISN'T

EDITORIAL

Have something to say?
mattlamers@groovekorea.com

● People often tell us, "Korea needs a New Yorker."

"Hey, why don't you be Korea's New Yorker?" they say. "Korea needs an English magazine with a high regard for journalistic integrity. You have a pretty good magazine. You ought to do it."

It's a terrific suggestion, but there are a few problems: The New Yorker is staffed by dozens of well-trained journalists who represent some of the best talent in the field; it's a weekly magazine that is worth millions of dollars and has a circulation of 1.1 million.

Groove is an awesome magazine, but it isn't the New Yorker.

Groove is a free magazine, published 12 times per year, worth considerably less than millions of dollars, and has a full time editorial staff of one, plus five talented and dedicated part-time section editors. We are a magazine made by about 60 extremely talented people who hail from all around the world, including Korea. Those people, the bylines you see on all the stories — the writers, photographers, illustrators, designers and copy editors — are the ones who get all the credit for making Groove what it is.

Groove is made for anyone who wants to learn more about Korea. This month we delve into Jeju's disappearing shamans and buying shares in the local stock market. We are not afraid to dig beneath the surface. April's cover story dealt with the inexplicable HIV/AIDS testing of foreign teachers. In March we asked if Korea's EFL education has been failing. We also give practical lifestyle and travel tips, such as Seoul's best "Summer sips" and last month's "5 island getaways."

Groove is a magazine with an extremely diverse readership. Our fastest growing readership segment is Korean, but most of our readers come from around the world and represent how global this coun-

try has become. Making a magazine that represents the interests of all these people is a great challenge, to say the least.

Groove is distributed in more than 2,500 places throughout Korea. We're in Starbucks and Ediya Coffee branches nationwide. That's on top of more than 500 cafes and restaurants. Starting this month we'll be in Shinhan banks overseas.

So that's what Groove is.

What can Groove do for you?

Let us know. On every story page you will find the editor responsible for that particular story. They want to hear from you, so don't hesitate to share your constructive criticism or pay her or him a compliment for a job well done. If there's something you want covered, let us know.

What can you do for Groove?

If there is there a café in your neighborhood that you think would be a great place for a small stack of Grooves, let us know and we'll give them a call.

You can also contribute your talents, provide feedback, subscribe, send us story ideas and join us at our monthly gatherings. Or simply retweet our tweets and share our stories on Facebook.

So Groove isn't going to be Korea's New Yorker, but that doesn't mean we won't publish articles that are of great importance to our readers. Whether you're from Europe, North America, Oceania or Korea, we hope that Groove is as important to you as you are to us.

GROOVE

HOT ON: WWW.GROOVEKOREA.COM

Insight

The mightiest trivia nights in the land

There are several criteria that can cause someone to be diagnosed as a trivia hound. A penchant for alcohol and possessing a treasure trove of minutiae are pre-determinants. Valuing nerdy debate in lieu of pool or darts is another factor. Finally, the realization that all these things combined could actually bankroll one's drinking habit is enough to turn some of us into maniacs.

Local quiz junkies Jon Linke and Ian Henderson scoured Seoul to find the mightiest trivia nights in the land.

Hundreds of pints of beer and several blood feuds with rival nerds later, they emerge from the rubble to give you the scoop on six of the best trivia nights in Seoul.

Story by Ian Henderson and Jon Linke

Read it at groovekorea.com in July
or in print in August.

Insight

Fear of becoming a housewife

This year I married a Korean man. He isn't "Korean-Korean" which is our code to mean he is comfortable with the ways of life outside of the peninsula.

Making the conscious choice to become a stay at home mom or dad is a perfectly respectable decision. However, I fear that for too many women, this decision is not one made from thorough evaluation of all choices but instead the result of social expectations. I do not intend this to be a social criticism. Rather, I hope to share with others my unexpected limit in understanding that arises from my own gender role expectations. Regardless of my mother-in-law's reasoning, it is futile for me to judge her. I will strive to respect her for the sacrifices she has made while using my own life to demonstrate equalized gender roles.

Column by Megan Harper

Read it at groovekorea.com in July
or in print in August.

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ISSUE 81 / JULY 2013

DESTINATIONS



60

10 PLACES TO TAKE YOUR PARENTS

Sometimes an easygoing itinerary won't cut it; real planning is needed to ensure your guests leave the peninsula with great memories. Here's a cheat sheet that will satisfy any visitor to Seoul.

DESTINATIONS



ABU DHABI ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET

The name of this city conjures images of rich oil tycoons speeding in Ferraris, skyscrapers grasping at the clouds, and all things cosmopolitan. Yet despite appearances, the capital of the United Arab Emirates is trying to balance a culturally rich past with an economically rich present.

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As you change, so too does the place you call home. Sometimes, going back can be quite a shock.

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Like it or lump it, Korea has one of the most secure internet banking systems in the world.

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54 - JERK CHICKEN PERFECTION

It's a recipe that may date back to pre-slavery West Africa, but today jerk chicken is as synonymous with Jamaica as reggae music and beaches. Zion Boat is offering a very good selection of chicken and reggae.

56 - IT ALL BEGINS WITH PASTA

In your tiny apartment, under the glare of the brightest fluorescent light in the history of mankind, there is a treasure you didn't even know you possessed. It's got your number, baby, just waiting for you to saunter on up and get working.

INSIGHT



34 - THE DISAPPEARING SHAMANS

As tourism dollars fill the coffers of hotels, resorts and airlines, some on Jeju are asking if that wealth is coming at the expense of some of the island's centuries-old traditions and customs. Shamanism, or musok, is at the center of a vast tapestry of history, lore and beliefs, and it is struggling to maintain relevance among youth.

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FOOD & DRINK



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SUMMER SUDS

Your thirst is great. You must drink beer. But not just any beer – light beer, crisp beer, beer that tastes like orange and grapefruit and has the golden color of summer wheat. You need refreshing beer to quench your thirst. Summer beer.

FOOD & DRINK



IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT PIZZA

If you import a massive brick oven from Italy, keep a tall stack of oak wood in your kitchen, and recruit a Bolognese pizza master to share with you the secrets of the perfect slice, then it's safe to say that you are serious about making pizza.

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More than 60 bands have been confirmed in the first four lineups, including Weezer, Jamiroquai, Placebo, Deerhoof, Switchfoot and The Dandy Warhols.

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This band is comprised of four musicians who compose original songs and perform their unique sounds at venues across Korea. They play on July 12 at Strange Fruit in Hongdae.

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John Weeke and Nick Neon recently launched NYK Media Group to help bridge the advertising gap between Korean companies and their American audience.

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Phillip Y. Kim's novel unravels the complicated and secretive world of Asia's finance industry.

78 - AT THE BOX OFFICE

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"A Company Man (회사원)"
"Perfect Number (용의자X)"

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Tired of teaching, one expat decided to quit and become a filmmaker. Now she's out to prove you really can follow your dreams, even in Korea.

86 - PASS THE 'POPCORN'

Guns, blood, violence, sex and drugs don't sound like something one might associate with a night of comedy. In July, Probationary Theatre takes on its most ambitious project to date.

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Be the first to complete the puzzles, email a photo to mattlamers@groovekorea and win a prize.

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Submit a photo and win a prize.

COMMUNITY



80 - THE SEARCH FOR ROOTS AND IDENTITY

Sun Mee Chomet had a recurring dream when she was young. In it, she was making a charcoal drawing of her mother. But like many other adoptees who grow up away from their birth families, she wasn't able to make the face whole.

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Groove Korea Magazine 2013

KEY PEOPLE

Introducing some of the editors, writers and photographers behind July's issue.



John M. Rodgers
U.S.

John M. Rodgers is a founding editor of The Three Wise Monkeys webzine and currently acts as Groove Korea's editor-at-large. He's contributed to Korean dailies, the New York Times and International Herald Tribune, and worked as a beat reporter at a local paper in the U.S. state of New Hampshire where he's from. Read John's column in the Insight section.

Jen Lee
U.S.



Jen Lee is a Korean-American who resides in the city of Gwangju. She is currently working at an animation company while also doing work as a freelance artist whenever she can. Jen hopes to someday change the world with her silly drawings. When she's not working or trying to improve her skills, she can be found sleeping, watching cartoons or playing video games. Her current addiction is milk tea. Read Jen's comic on the Comics page.



Hong Ji-hye
Korea

Before joining Groove Korea, Hong Ji-hye worked as a fashion reporter at an online business newspaper. She studied for a year in Canada and graduated from Dankook University in Seoul. When she's not in the office, she likes to read and while away her days at cafés. Ji-hye is Groove Korea's fashion and shopping editor.

Daniel Tudor
U.K.



Daniel Tudor is The Economist's Korea correspondent. He also writes for a number of other publications, including a regular column in the JoongAng Sunday. Recently he released his first book, "Korea: The Impossible Country." Daniel is from Stalybridge, a small town near Manchester, England (since everyone asks, United, not City). In his spare time he enjoys playing guitar and bass. Read Daniel's column in the Insight section.



Jungeun Jang
Korea

Growing up in a highly industrialized part of South Korea, I always felt the need to make something pretty and colorful. It wasn't until I went to City University of New York in 2006 that I grew to appreciate the beauty of urban landscapes and underground culture. My art incorporates urbanism and surrealism, which might be two of the unlikely things to go together. Jungeun contributed the illustrations for the insight section.

THE INBOX

Groove readers' opinions and feedback.

BREAD DISCOUNT FOR READERS OF GROOVE KOREA

I thought that I'd send an update about our business following the January Groove Korea interview titled "True calling" in the Food & Drink section.

We've been busy at Fog City in Incheon. Since the article came out, we've rented additional space and set up a dedicated baking studio. As a result, we're now able to meet the demands of our bread customers without disrupting our restaurant service. The team is happy about that, as are our customers, who now have access to a larger variety of breads in greater quantities.

Also of note is my recent victory at the 2013 California Raisin Korean National Professional Baker Contest for our raisin walnut sourdough bread. I generally don't participate in contests — in fact, I initially declined. But I was convinced to enter by Chef Hong, who is not only a master baker at the Himond Bakery in Seoul, but also an author and past winner of the contest.

Being selected to compete is an honor in and of itself. Only 10 bakers are accepted and each is awarded 300,000 won just for being a successful candidate. The other contestants were highly skilled and many had decades of experience. I was convinced that I had the proverbial snowball's chance in hell of becoming a contestant, much less winning the grand prize. In the end, I was proven wrong — I was included in the Finals List and was awarded the top honor. Exciting stuff. Included in the grand prize was a 1.5 million won cash award, 1 million won for our business' promotional budget and 500,000 won worth of California raisins (have you ever even seen 150 lbs. of raisins?), not to mention a trip to Las Vegas to be an observer at the domestic California Raisin Professional Baker Contest.

Since the contest, our business has been under siege by customers who want to try our breads. We are planning another expansion, which will turn our baking operation into a separate business. Groove Korea readers will soon see the Fog City bread at retailers around Korea and for home delivery under the label A7 Bread Company — Hand-crafted Artisan Breads. We chose this name because my contestant identifier in the contest was A7.

To celebrate our growth and the outcome of the contest, if Groove Korea readers mention this update in July, they will receive a 2,000 won discount on the purchase of a loaf of our award-winning raisin walnut sourdough bread.

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fogcitycafe for info on future offers and specials.

— Bob Weimer, Fog City International Café

Directions: To find walking directions from Incheon Station, line 1, visit facebook.com/fogcitycafe or fogcitycafe.com.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, GROOVE

Over the last few months, I have been very impressed with the cover features in your magazine. It has been interesting and satisfying to see your publication ask tough and sometimes uncomfortable questions about the real issues on Korea's social agenda, and I've been reading every word of your recent features on topics like Jasmine Lee, Korea's first migrant National assembly member, and HIV testing discrimination.

— Rob Ouwehand



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MUST READS

On Jeju, the disappearing shamans

Page 34

There are two distinct peoples in Jeju, explains filmmaker Giuseppe Rositano: the young generation and the old. The older generation speaks a different language and practices a different religion. The decline of the dialect and the displacement of communities have dire consequences for the island's centuries-old shamanistic traditions.



The pianist from Pyongyang

Page 82

Most flee North Korea because of poverty, famine or imprisonment. Kim Cheol-wong fled artistic repression. The North Korean Rescue Fund is holding a concert featuring a 60-minute performance by Kim. This Groove Korea-sponsored event takes place on July 13 at Haechi Hall.



In search of the perfect pizza

Page 46

If you import a massive brick oven from Italy, keep a tall stack of oak wood in your kitchen, and recruit a Bolognese pizza master to share with you the secrets of the perfect slice, then it's safe to say that you are serious about making pizza.



Summer sips: 10 irresistible beers

Page 48

Summer is in full swing. Your thirst is great. You must drink beer. But not just any beer — light beer, crisp beer, beer that tastes like orange and grapefruit and has the golden color of summer wheat. You need refreshing beer to quench your thirst. Summer beer.



Jisan World Rock Festival

Page 68

This three-day festival — to take place Aug. 2-4 at Jisan Forest Resort near Icheon, Gyeonggi Province — will be packed with killer rock bands, from alternative rock crusaders to locally revered funk rockers.



10 places to take your parents

Page 60

You might think that having an enthusiastic, world-traveling mother is a good thing, but that means an easygoing itinerary won't cut it; real planning is needed to ensure she leaves the peninsula with great memories. Here's a cheat sheet that will satisfy any visitor to Seoul.



COVER

Summer sips: 10 irresistible beers

It's summer, and you need something to quench your thirst. Summer beer. Join our Food & Drink editor on his search for the most refreshing brews in the city. Pictured below is Reilly Taphouse's Jeju 풀 IPA.

Read the story on Page 48



Cover photo by James Little / Design by Daniel Sanchez

Our past three issues:



June 2013

5 island escapes
12 flights under \$300
Jeonju in a day



May 2013

Interview: Jasmine Lee
The end of Korea
Get in shape for summer



April 2013

End HIV teacher testing
30 festivals for April
Korea's temples



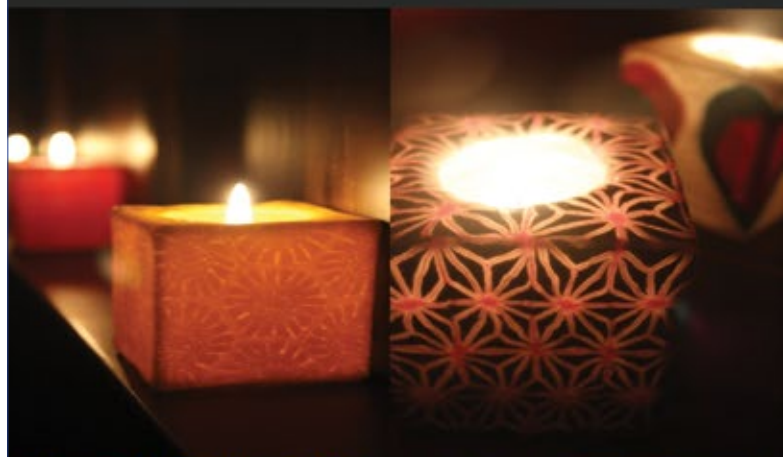
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Everything you need to know about

TOPIK

The Test of Proficiency in Korean, or TOPIK for short is a Korean language exam that is administered by the Korean government. It's essentially the Korean Language equivalent of TOEFL in the United States.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) and National Institute for International Education (NIIED) announced that the 31st TOPIK will be administered on July 21 at 20 test sites throughout Korea. The total number of applicants for TOPIK since its introduction in 1997 has exceeded 1.9 million. It has benefited from the growing phenomenon of the Korean Wave around the world. For the 31st test, around 24,000 applicants have applied. The stated purposes of the test include "to study in Korea" (46 percent), "to find a job" (13 percent), "to test their Korean language skills" (24 percent), "to understand Korean culture" (2 percent), and "other reasons" (15 percent). TOPIK was introduced 17 years ago to provide a forum for nonnative Korean speakers and overseas Koreans to evaluate their Korean language skills. In 2013, TOPIK is scheduled to take place in 192 regions in 62 countries for four times, which is a remarkable increase since 1997,

when it was held one time in four countries. The soaring demand for TOPIK reflects the growing interest in the Korean language around the globe. Over the years, various regulations have been introduced to stabilize the testing system. Starting from 2010, for example, potential university applicants were

required to achieve a TOPIK level 3 (out of 6) in order to enter Korean universities. From 2012, the validity of test scores was reduced to two years from the test date. Also in 2012, the education office of Tacoma, Washington, adopted TOPIK as an official language proficiency measurement for students and started to give credits to students who excel in TOPIK.

TOPIK RECORDS 1.9 MILLIONTH APPLICANT

Korean language test will take place in
194 regions, 62 countries this year

It was the first time a board of education made Korean an optional component of the statewide curriculum, thus contributing to the expansion of the Korean language. The MOE and the NIIED say they would continue to work to further develop TOPIK.

WHEN AND WHERE TO TAKE THE 31ST TOPIK

Test date: July 21. Test result announcement: Aug. 2

Difficulty	Period	Evaluation Areas	Korea			Remark
			Entry time	Start	End	
Beginner Advanced	1 Period	Voc. Grammar Writing	09:10	09:30	11:00	90 min.
	2 Period	Listening Reading	11:10	11:30	13:00	90 min.
Intermediate	1 Period	Voc. Grammar Writing	14:10	14:30	16:00	90 min.
	2 Period	Listening Reading	16:10	16:30	18:00	90 min.

A duplicate application is possible : Beginner and Intermediate, or Intermediate and Advanced.

Seoul

Kyung Hee University, Soongsil University,
Konkuk University, Sungkyunkwan University,
Dongguk University

Gyeonggi

Inha (Incheon) University, Aju (Suwon)
University, Kangnam University

Cheonan

Sun Moon University

Daejeon

Chungnam National University

Jeonju

Chonbuk National University

Gwangju

Chonnam National University

Jeju

Cheju Halla University

Chuncheon

Hallym University

Cheongju

Chungbuk National University

Daegu

Daegu University, Keimyung University

Busan

Busan National University, Pukyong National University

Changwon

Kyungnam University

NIIED (National Institute for International Education)

Raising global leaders and supporting to spread the Korean education as an effect of popular Korean culture.

- Systematize the GKS international education exchange
- Support overseas Korean education
- Strengthen the spread of Korean language education
- Perform administrative functions and support overseas students
- Administering the National English Ability Test (NEAT)
- Expanding support for foreign language studies in public schools



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www.topik.go.kr www.niied.go.kr

WHAT'S ON

1 - Monday

Festival: Donghae Horizon White Sericite Festival @ Mangsang Beach in Donghae-si; see english.dhtour.go.kr/index.html for exact dates

Food: Wing night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Mondays); craftworkstaphouse.com

Drinks: Mexican night @ Sam Ryan's in Itaewon; samryans.com; Mondays

2 - Tuesday

Theatre: Scarlet Pimpernel @ LG Arts Center; July 2- Sept. 8; lgart.com

Happy hour: All-you-can-drink beer 6-8 pm; 10,000 won @ Big Rock in Gangnam; Monday, Tuesday; bigrock-beer.co.kr

Trivia night: @ Bless U in Itaewon, exit 1, 9 pm; Tuesdays

3 - Wednesday

Festival: Taeon F(lower) Festival @ Taeon Nature World; through July 5; ffestival.co.kr

Wing night: @ Dillinger's in Itaewon; dillingers-bar@gmail.com; 400 won wings; Wednesdays

Pro baseball: LG vs. Hanwha @ Jamsil Stadium; 6:30 pm; mykbo.net

4 - Thursday

Comedy: Stand-up Seoul @ Rocky Mountain Tavern in Itaewon; 9 pm; rockymountain-tavern.com; 1st Thursday of month

Food: Rib night @ Reilly's Taphouse in Itaewon (Thursdays)

Box office: The Lone Ranger opens in theatres across Korea; cineinkorea.com

5 - Friday

Business: AM-CHAM General Membership Meeting @ Grand Hyatt Seoul; 11:30 am; RSVP by July 4 amchamrsvp@amchamkorea.org

Grand opening: Craftworks Pangyo—free beer from 3-4, 1,000 won beers from 4-5, 2,000 won from 5-6 etc, free appetizers all night

6 - Saturday

Volunteer: Volunteer @ Angel House; 1:30 pm; RSVP angelhouse2013@hotmail.com

Competition: Top Talent Finale @ Yongsan Art Hall; 6 pm; tickets@toptalentkorea.com

7 - Sunday

Festival: Go-seong Lavender Festival @ Hani Lavender Farm in Goseong-gun, Gangwon-do; through July 7; lavenderfarm.co.kr

Concert: Broccoli, You Too? @ Sangsang Madang; 6 pm; 44,000won; sangsangmadang.com



Slow Dress will play on July 12 at Strange Fruit in Hongdae. Read story on Page 72.

8 - Monday

Musical: Chicago @ National Theater of Korea; July 6-Aug. 31; ticket.interpark.com/Global

Festival: Daegu International Musical Festival @ ,ain theaters and stages in downtown Daegu; through July 8; dimf.or.kr

9 - Tuesday

Food: 1/2 price burgers @ Dillinger's in Itaewon; dillingers-bar@gmail.com; Tuesday

Food: BBQ Rib Night @ Sam Ryan's in Itaewon; samryans.com; 5-10 pm; Tuesdays

10 Wednesday

Business: Capital Markets & Financial Services Committee Meeting with AMCHAN @ Westin Chosun, amchamrsvp@amchamkorea.org

Quiz night: @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays); craftworkstaphouse.com

11 - Thursday

Wing night: @ Phillies Pub in Haebeoncheon; Thursdays; facebook.com/pages/Phillies-pub

Performance: Michael Jackson The Immortal World tour By Cirque Du Soleil @ Olympic Park Gymnasium; 6 pm; ticket.interpark.com/Global

12 - Friday

Happy Hour: 2,000 won off beer/wine @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong; 4-6 pm; craftworkstaphouse.com

Festival: World Taekwondo Culture Expo @ Muju Dome Stadium and Muju Resort; July 12-17; wtcexpo.net

13 - Saturday

Fundraiser: for North Korean defectors @ Seoul Global Culture & Tourism Center; (02) 3789-7961~8

Concert: The Strikers, Coin Rocker Boys, 13 Steps, Dolls Realize, Skasucks, Things We Say, One Ton @ Club FF; 8 pm; 20,000 won;

14 - Sunday

Festival: Great Mountains International Music Fest @ Pyeongchang Alpensia Resort, Youngpyeong Resort; July 14-Aug. 6; gmmsf.com

Quiz night: @ Rocky Mountain Tavern in Itaewon; 6:30 pm; rockymountain-tavern.com; Sundays

"How to Be a Korean Woman" will be presented on July 30. Read story on Page 80.



15 - Monday

Food: 5,000 won off Wolfhound's burger; facebook.com/Wolfhound-Pub; Mondays

Drinks: Mexican night @ Sam Ryan's in Itaewon; samryans.com; Mondays

16 - Tuesday

Trivia night: @ Bull N' Barrel in Itaewon, 9 pm; Tuesdays

Food: Mini Burger Day @ Yaletown in Sinchon; get extra burg with order; yaletown-seoul.com; Tuesdays

Concert: Method, My Last Enemy, Dark Mirror ov Tragedy, etc/ @ V-Hall in Hongdae; 35,000 won; 6 pm;

FREE STUFF: Email the Groove crossword to matflamers@groovekorea.com and win 25,000 won

17 Wednesday

Trivia night: @ Phillies in HBC, 9 pm; Wednesdays

Happy Hour: 3,000 won off JD, Finlanda vodka @ DOJO in Itaewon; Wednesdays



For suggestions or comments,
email calendar@groovekorea.com

*All the events published in this calendar
are subject to unforeseen changes by the
promoters. Groove Korea does not take
responsibility for any misunderstandings
or third party damage.

Jisan World Rock Festival @ Jisan Forest Resort; Aug. 2-4. Read story on Page 68.

18 - Thursday

Box office: RED2
opens in theatres
across Korea;
cineinkorea.com

Festival: Buyeo Se-
odong Lotus Festi-
val @ Seodong
Park (Gungnamji)
area; July 18-21;
buyeotour.net

Festival: Puchon
International
Fantastic Film Fes-
tival @ Bucheon
Citizens' Hall and
City Hall, Bucheon
CGV; July 18-28;
pifan.com

19 - Friday

Festival: Boryeong
Mud Festival @
Daecheon Beach,
Boryeong; July 19-
28; mudfestival.or.kr

Culture: Korean
make-up class
@ Seoul Global
Culture & Tourism
Center; (02) 3789-
7961~3

Pro baseball: All
Star Game; mykbo.net

20 - Saturday

Pro baseball:
Doosan vs. NC @
Jamsil Stadium;
6:30 pm; mykbo.net

Concert: ASSITEJ
Korea International
Summer Festi-
val, Dances and
Rhythms of Sri
Lanka @ Sejong
Center for the
Performing Arts

Concert: Naty,
Tear Drop, Vicious
Glare, Satel-
lights, Remnants of
the Fallen, etc. @
Didim Hall; 15,000
won

21 - Sunday

FOOD: Sunday
roast @ Craft-
works;
[craftwork-
staphouse.com](http://craftwork-staphouse.com)

Ticket Tip: Go to
[ticket.interpark.
com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global) to pur-
chase tickets for
ongoing musicals

22 - Monday

Social: Open mic @
Tony's in Itaewon
(Mondays);
tonysitaewon.com

Food: Wing special
@ at Yaletown in
Sinchon; 10 wings
for 4,000 won;
[facebook.com/
yaletownjason](http://facebook.com/yaletownjason);
Mondays

23 - Tuesday

Festival: Seoul
International Car-
toon & Animation
Festival @ Exhi-
bition-Convention:
COEX D HALL
Animated Film
Festival: CGV My-
eongdong & Seoul
Ani-Cinema; July
23-28; sicaf.org

Food: BBQ night
@ Craftworks
(Tuesdays);
[craftwork-
staphouse.com](http://craftwork-staphouse.com)

24 Wednesday

Festival: Muan
White Lotus
Festival @ Hoesan
White Lotus
Ground and Il-
lo-eup; July 24-28;
eng.muan.go.kr

Standup: comedy
(Wednesdays) @
Tony's in Itaewon;
tonysitaewon.com



The Wolverine opens in Korea on July 25. Read story on Page 78.

25 - Thursday

Quiz night: @ Dil-
linger's in Itaewon;
9 pm; [dillingers-
bar@gmail.com](mailto:dillingers-bar@gmail.com);
Thursdays

Food: Wing Night
@ Wolfhound in
Itaewon; 4,000
won for 10 wings;
Thursdays; [face-
book.com/Wolf-
houndPub](http://facebook.com/WolfhoundPub)

Box office: The
Wolverine opens
in theatres across
Korea; [cineinko-
rea.com](http://cineinkorea.com); Read
Groove's preview
on Page 78.

Box office: Turbo
opens in theatres
across Korea;
cineinkorea.com

26 - Friday

Music festival:
Ansan Valley Rock
Festival @ Festival
Park, Daebu Sea
Breeze Theme
Park; July 26-28;
[ticket.interpark.
com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

Concert: Sarah
Brightman @
Olympic Park Gym-
nastics Gymnasi-
um; 6 pm; [ticket.
interpark.com/
Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

Festival: ASSITEJ
Korea International
Summer Festival
@ Sejong Center
for the Performing
Arts; Jul6 26-28;
[ticket.interpark.
com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

FREE STUFF:
Email the Groove
crossword to [mat-
tlamers@groove-
korea.com](mailto:mat-tlamers@groovekorea.com) and win
25,000 won

27 - Saturday

Festival: Janghe-
ung Jeongnamjin
Water Festival @
Jangheung Tam-
jingang River and
Pyeonbaek Forest
Woodland; July 26-
Aug. 1; jhwater.kr

Music festival:
Ansan Valley Rock
Festival @ Festival
Park, Daebu Sea
Breeze Park; July
26-28; [ticket.inter-
park.com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

Festival: Bonghwa
Eun-Uh (Sweet
Fish) Festival @
Naeseongcheon
Stream area; July
27-Aug. 3; [bongh-
wafestival.com](http://bongh-wafestival.com)

Ticket Tip: Go to
[ticket.interpark.
com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global) to pur-
chase tickets for
ongoing musicals

28 - Sunday

Festival: Taebaek
Sunflower Festival
@ Gallery Hal,
Plateau Native
Botanic Garden;
July 27-Aug. 19;
[sunflowerfestival.
co.kr](http://sunflowerfestival.co.kr)

Festival: Hwacheon
Jjokbae (Raft)
Festival @ Hwa-
cheon-gun, Bunge-
oseom Island area;
July 28-Aug. 12;
narafestival.com

Music festival:
Ansan Valley Rock
Festival @ Festival
Park, Daebu Sea
Breeze Theme
Park; July 26-28;
[ticket.interpark.
com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

Musical: Last day
for Les Miserables
@ Blue Square
Musical Hall; 7 pm;
[ticket.interpark.
com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

29 - Monday

Happy hour: All-
you-can-drink beer
6-8 pm; 10,000
won @ Big Rock in
Gangnam; Monday,
Tuesday; [bigrock-
beer.co.kr](http://bigrock-beer.co.kr)

30 - Tuesday

Food: 2-For-1 fish
& chips @ Wolf-
hound (Tuesdays);
wolfhoundpub.com

31 Wednesday

Musical: Last day
of Ballerina Who
Loved a B-Boy @
Kyounghyang Art
Hall; 6 pm; [ticket.
interpark.com/
Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)



North Korea-born pianist Kim Cheol-wong performs July 13. Read story on Page 82.



KOREA JOONGANG DAILY

In association with

International Herald Tribune

NATIONAL NEWS with GROOVE

July 2013 / www.koreajoongangdaily.com

UNIVERSITY

FOREIGN STUDENTS RIPPED OFF

Foreign students are now a common sight on Korean campuses. They come from all over the world to study and then return to their home countries, serving as ambassadors of their experiences here.

These impressions are causing concern as students are complaining they aren't receiving the kind of education or services they expected.

The experience of one 24-year-old woman from the United Arab Emirates is a testament to the problem.

She came to Korea in August 2008 to study at Ewha Womans University, the top women's college in the country.

She also looked at other colleges in Japan and China, but she was drawn to the Korean university due to the generous scholarship program and her affection for K-pop and Korean TV programs.

After almost two years, however, she has become disappointed.

"The school said I don't need to be fluent in Korean because the courses are taught in English," she said.

But when she actually went to class, the majority of it was taught in Korean.

"I complained about the matter and the school said they meant the course focusing on developing practical skills would not require a high level of Korean," the 24-year-old said.

It was just the beginning of constant troubles she has had with the school. One year after coming to Ewha, the university required her to earn a level 4 on the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) in order to receive her scholarship.

"The university always goes back on their word. I feel like I was tricked into enrolling in the school. I even developed hostile feelings toward Korea," she said.

Jang Chao, a Chinese student who is now studying at Ajou University for his master's degree, also says he was misled.

"The college first told me I didn't need to be fluent in Korean. When I came to the school, the textbook was in English but the professors taught in Korean," the 27-year-old engineering major said.

A 23-year-old Chinese student who is now registered at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies complained about the school's assistance with visa issues and poor accessibility to school faculty members.

"When I want to make a decision about extending my visa, I want to receive consultation from professors and school administrators because it is also linked with how the semester or class is going to be," said the student, who did not want to be named.

"There's no specific center for foreign students to receive advice on such issues, but the service is readily available for Korean students, and is provided by professional consultants," he added, noting that other foreign students might fare worse than him given the university is known for being relatively expat-friendly.

The number of overseas students studying in Korea surpassed the 80,000 mark last year, a leap from 22,526 in 2005. Foreign students are often excluded from various career services provided by

the university, exacerbating the troubles already facing them in an unfavorable job market.

Out of 10,000 foreigners that graduate from Korean universities, about 100 go on to start careers in Korea.

Foreign students say the lack of a mentoring system is also a problem.

"I've attended both public and private colleges, but I've never heard of a mentoring system to help overseas students adapt to the classes," said a Mongolian male student who stayed in Korea for 11 years. The 39-year-old man now studies at Seoul National University, widely regarded as Korea's best, for a doctoral degree.

"The mentoring system helped a lot when I studied in Japan," said Yeo Gab-dong, a professor at Keimyung University who attended the University of Tsukuba in Ibaraki prefecture.

"My mentor helped me with course registration and taught me how to use the library and write a report in a formal way. The mentor also let me know about Japanese culture and traditions," Yeo recalled.

Experts say Korean universities' heavy focus on only increasing the volume of foreign students has brought about ill-prepared service.

"It's important to have a large volume of foreign students. But now Korean education providers need to focus on quality," said Kang Sung-jin, director of the international cooperation division at Korea University.

MANHUNT: TOP-COP 'THE TANK' APPEALS FOR HELP

Police are on the hunt to catch a criminal who escaped custody in North Jeolla in May. Lee Dae-woo, 45, escaped from Jeonju District Prosecutors' Office in North Jeolla after a police officer left the interrogation room unlocked when he went to the bathroom. Lee, who had been convicted 12 times for theft and robbery, didn't miss his chance and fled immediately. He has stolen about 670 million won (\$594,290) worth of goods over a one-year period.

The Gwangju police mobilized about 1,000 officers to track Lee down, but the suspect was nowhere to be found until they received information from their colleagues in Seoul. A Gangnam Police Precinct detective, whose name is also Lee Dae-woo, "declared war" against the fugitive in a Twitter posting: "The fugitive Lee Dae-woo is wanted by the detective Lee Dae-woo! Please take a look around, you citizens!"

Detective Lee is famed as one of the best violent-crime fighters in the city, earning him the nickname "The Tank."

The police believe that the fugitive has been living in the mountains since he came up to Seoul and is also currently staying in the metropolitan (Seoul-Gyeonggi-Incheon) area. There is a possibility that the fugitive might have already fled overseas. Lee's prison mate told the police that he had inquired about ways to be smuggled overseas, into China or Southeast Asia, when he was jailed last time.

Lee, who is 5 feet, 6 inches in height and weighs 176 pounds, is allegedly a strong man who had defeated three professional gang members in a jailhouse brawl when he was jailed. He is also described as being aggressive, having stabbed a police officer during a chase when he was arrested for a robbery in 2007.

WALKING PATH AROUND SEOUL NEARLY DONE

The Seoul Metropolitan Government said that it will wrap up an ongoing walking path project by 2014 that will circumnavigate the capital and connect its mountains.

The 157-kilometer (97.6-mile) trail dubbed Dulle-gil will encompass the city's main mountains, including Samgak, Dobong and Bukhan.

In early June, the city government finished construction of the course that connects Mount Gwanak

and Mount Wooyun. If it completes the hiking trail that goes around Mount Angbong, Mount Bulam and Mount Yongma by the end of the year, 70 percent of the project will be completed.

With 70 percent of Korea covered in mountains, hiking is a popular pastime.

The city office noted that a set of new roads are surrounded by national landmarks such as Mount Bukhan's observatory, the National Cemetery dedi-

cated to commemorating victims of the democracy movement and the boundaries of graves by democratic activists.

"Tourist attractions are near the newly paved trail, particularly various cultural heritage and historical sites that can be appreciated alongside the road," Oh Hae-young, an official of the city government, told the JoongAng Ilbo.

HIP HONGDAE GUESTHOUSES OPEN

The hip neighborhood of Hongik University, a.k.a. Hongdae, in western Seoul is quiet early in the morning. The stores are closed, leaving only street cleaners and a couple of pigeons out and about. Travelers carrying bulky backpacks, however, are a new addition to the neighborhood, which is famous for clubs, indie music and stylish cafés.

In recent years, the influx of travelers has led locals to open guesthouses that offer accommodation at reasonable prices. According to the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Mapo District now boasts the most guesthouses in the city. There are 54 registered guesthouses in Mapo, far higher than Jung District's 18 and Jongno District's 10.

"There are more than 100 guesthouses in this area if we include unauthorized ones," a Mapo District Office official said.

"There were not that many guesthouses when I opened mine a year and a half ago," said Kim Jong-jun, the owner of JJ Guest House in Donggyo-dong. "But the number of guesthouses went up when Hongik University Station was added to the Airport Express Line."

Kimchee Hongdae Guesthouse is one of the longest-running guesthouses in the area. It has attracted visitors with inexpensive rooms and a neighborly vibe, in addition to airport accessibility. A dorm bed starts from 20,000 won (\$19) per night, including a simple breakfast. A shared kitchen and living space enable tourists to mingle with other travelers.

"(The guesthouse) is very close to the Hongdae nightlife area as well as the subway station that runs a direct airport express train to Incheon Airport," a Singaporean traveler wrote on Agoda, an online accommodation booking website.

Thanks to fair prices and a unique environment, these guesthouses are also catching on among young Koreans. "There are not that many options in Seoul when it comes to accommodation. You had to choose between a five-star hotel and a seedy motel before the guesthouses got started," said Kim Bo-young, a teacher living in Gangwon Province.

Kim Kyeong-mi, 32, an owner of Space Torra, another guesthouse in Yeonnam-dong, said the lack of accommodation options in Seoul led her to open a guesthouse about a year ago.

"I took note of surging demand among foreign artists who wished to stay at fun places. But there were none, so I made up my mind to open this place," Kim explained. Kim uses a part of the guesthouse as her design studio.

According to Kim, diverse groups of travelers visit guesthouses for different reasons.

"People who are in their early 20s often stay at guesthouses to participate in fan meets and similar entertainment events, but this guesthouse charges a bit more than others so most of our guests are in their mid-20s and 30s and are more serious about travel."

With more competition springing up, the guesthouses have tried to differentiate themselves from others by charging less or providing small-scale tours. "I often take my guests to nearby saunas and restaurants," said Kim from JJ Guest House.

However, tourists should be careful when choosing where to stay as competition grows fiercer, owners said.

Some inns and goshiwon, or establishments that offer tiny one-room apartments, now call themselves guesthouses to lure unsuspecting travelers.

AIRLINES

Korean Air expands flights to Canada

Korean Air Lines, the nation's largest carrier under Hanjin Group, said it will expand flights to Canada for the summer vacation season.

KAL said it will operate daily flights to Vancouver from June 20 and to Toronto from June 24. These routes currently operate five times a week.

The Vancouver flight will use a 365-seat B747-400 aircraft, an upgrade from the current 261-seat B777-200 airplane. The Toronto flight will continue to use the B77-200.

Eastar Jet opens Jeju-Kunming route

Eastar Jet started operating a Jeju-Kunming route in June, becoming the first low-cost air carrier to do so.

The company currently flies to 13 Chinese cities with chartered planes, the largest among local low-cost air carriers.

Air Busan launches Busan-Yanji route

Air Busan's Busan-Yanji service will operate from June through September. It runs twice weekly on board an Airbus A320 or A321 aircraft.

Air Busan, a regional arm of Asiana Airlines, is based in Busan. It consists of an eight-aircraft fleet — two X A321-200s (195 seats each), three X B737-400s (162 seats), and three X B737-500s (127 seats). This September, an additional A320 series aircraft will be introduced.

TRANSGENDER STAR BACK ON AIR

Harisu, a Korean transgender entertainer, will return to local television as a host for the first time in seven years.

The show, tentatively named "Harisu's Sexual Night," will be aired on adult cable channel Spice TV starting in July.

She will invite guests who are questioning their sexuality and also accept expert commentary from medical professionals.

She has already taped four pilot episodes, and Spice TV will decide whether to produce more episodes depending on viewership.

The star's last show was "Introducing Harisu's Boyfriend," which aired on KM in 2006.

Meanwhile, she finished performing in a musical named "Drag Queen" early this month.

The show featured men dressed up as women in heavy makeup.

Harisu, who debuted in the local entertainment industry in 2001, was the first person to change her gender on her resident registration documents.

She said she took a break from local TV to start other businesses in Korea and overseas.

CHILD CELEBRITY YUN HU IS TARGET OF HATE WEBSITE

Child star Yun Hu of "Dad, Where Are You Going?" remains in the spotlight after the launch of a website dedicated to hating the 8-year-old.

Yun was among the most-searched terms on local portal sites from both supporters and detractors.

He is the son of singer Yun Min-su from the male duo Vibe and garnered widespread popularity after appearing on the reality television program with his father. Some fans credit the

show with breaking Yun out of his previously close groups of fans. The Yun Hu "anti-café" describes itself as a "gathering of (anyone) who hates Yun Hu and also a café where (anyone can) just talk and hang."

Netizens began expressing their disapproval of the group when it was among the most-searched terms in the country.

To support the child star, netizens began searching the phrase, "I love you, Yun Hu," pushing it to the top of rankings.

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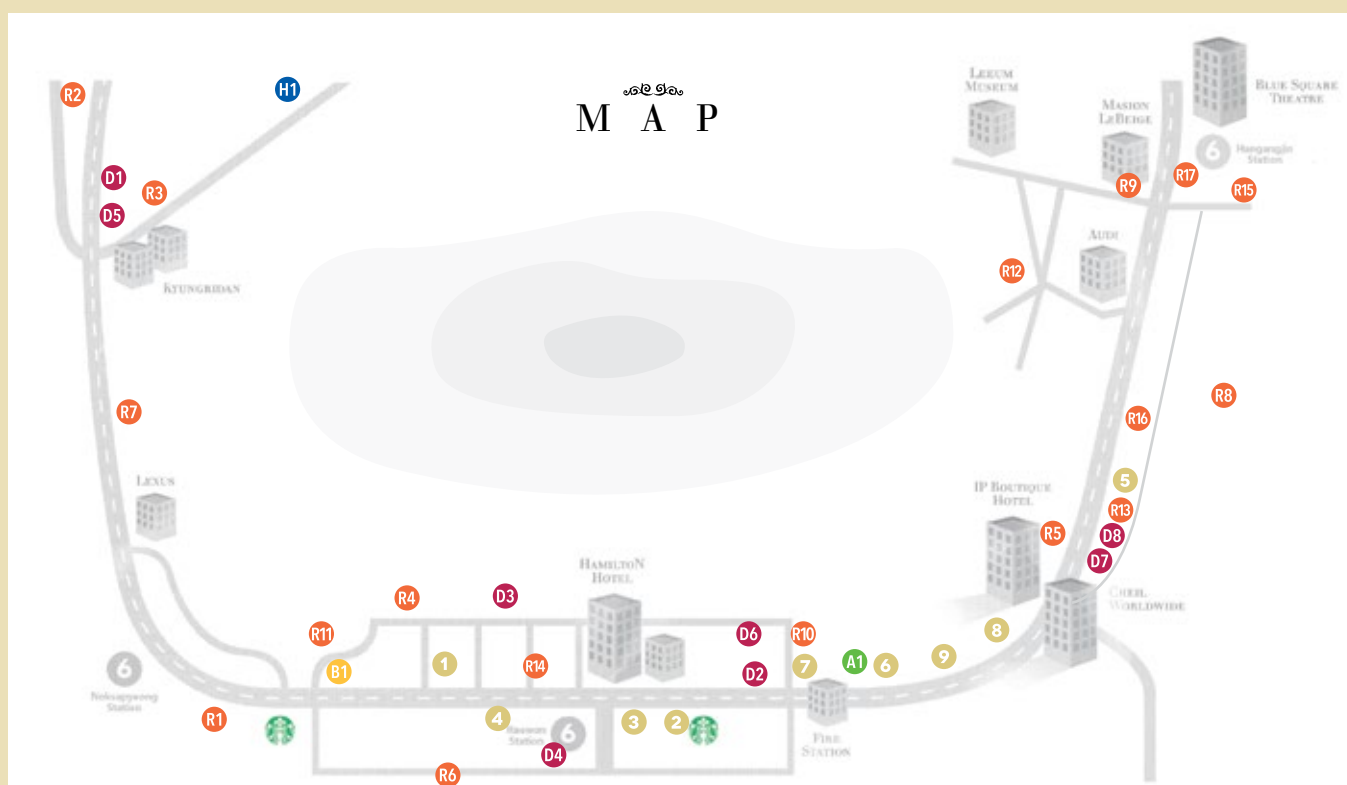


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See page 88 for detailed information

THE DISAPPEARING SHAMANS

SOME OF JEJU'S TRADITIONS ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND

Story by **Timothy Cushing**

Photos by **Natasha Mistry and Giuseppe Rositano**

● Jeju is on a mission to court tourists from around the world to its unique, and sometimes bizarre, brand of attractions. Millions of tourists flock to the island for everything from elephant shows and golf courses to the features that make it a UNESCO World Heritage site and tangerine chocolate.

But as tourism dollars fill the coffers of hotels, resorts and airlines, people on the island are asking if that wealth is coming at the expense of some of Jeju's centuries-old traditions and customs. Shamanism, or musok, is at the center of a vast tapestry of history, lore and beliefs, and it is struggling to maintain relevance among the island's youth. It's still an integral part of society — mostly for older people — but it is undeniably losing its grip on the younger generation.

Giuseppe Rositano, a seven-year resident of Jeju, has dedicated the past 18 months to documenting the island's shamans. He has taken 500 hours of footage, which will be refined into his first ever full-length documentary. The film tells the stories of the few remaining shamans on the island. It is an attempt to preserve an irreplaceable element of Jeju's culture.





Shamanism spans 500 villages with 400 shrines throughout this island, where around 18,000 spirits are thought to reside. Current shamans are getting older and preserve the living mythology of their beliefs by memorizing long passages in the old dialect. While there are shamans on Jeju who are full time, others only participate in the larger yearly celebration in October.

In many ways Jeju's shamans act as counselors, hearing peoples' problems and using their distinct knowledge of the shamanism network to assist. Shamans offer advice and prescriptions, often suggesting an offering to a specific spirit. One of the best tools a shaman can have is people skills — shamans assist believers with physical and mental ailments ranging from guilt to stomachaches.

Jeju shamans, or shimbang, are picked from a young age (traditionally they are sickly children). Shamans are generally stationed at a shrine, and thought to be in direct contact with that shrine's spirits.

Shamanism operates much like Greek mythology. It has a semi-hierarchical system of spirits who are descended from the heavens, ascended from the underworld, or have come from abroad. All of the spirits are accompanied by stories with a flair for the dramatic. While the lesser spirits are involved in more personal problems such as fertility and illness, the more important spirits are in charge of broader, community-affecting problems such as wind and the sea.

During Rositano's research, he spoke to one shaman who holds a weekly counsel for college students and finds their problems to be cute. This divide between the traditional and the modern is played out in a more conflicting way as transplanted shamans from the mainland bring new ideas that are often counter to the traditional practices indigenous to the island.

However, one of Jeju shamanism's defining characteristics is its ability to adapt. The web of beliefs has an amazing ability to absorb change and make it logical within its own distinct

**‘THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT PEOPLES
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A DIFFERENT RELIGION. IT’S A SIT-
UATION WHERE TWO
GENERATIONS ARE ACTUALLY TWO
DIFFERENT CULTURES.’**

framework. It may be possible that shamanism is not dying here, but is on the verge of another sea change. In that sense, Rositano's documentary could be viewed as more of a snapshot at a distinct period in Jeju shamanism's long and continuing evolution.

Rositano recently completed a successful Kickstarter campaign for the documentary's post-production, bringing in more than \$5,200. He hopes to release the film within the next year.

Rositano took some time to speak with Groove Korea about tradition, possession and his debut documentary, "At Search for Spirits on the Island of Rocks, Wind and Women."

What changes have you seen since arriving in Jeju?

The island has changed completely. There were no Olle Trails and many of the beaches weren't more than gravel roads with a handful of tourists. Many of the places developed with resorts and tourist parks were farmland or wild land. You could only get a cup of coffee in Jeju and Seogwipo city and even then, you had to wait until early afternoon for them to open. The constant stream of people hiking through the villages now has breathed new life into them. The quality of the environment has improved a lot as far as tourism is concerned, but I miss having a pristine beach to myself.

How did you first become interested in Jeju shamanism?

The film started out exploring the local idea of spirit possession and ghosts. I would ask people if they'd ever had someone in their family be possessed — most had — and what the nature of



the soul was, stuff like that. Then I realized there was a whole religion here associated with shamanism and the telling of myths. Soon after that I went to the first village with a Korean friend. My friend was skeptical that anyone in the village would remember the myths but I somehow knew they would, the old people anyway. Sure enough, after about an hour in the village we had a crowd around us telling us the old stories.

What does being possessed entail?

Possession in Korea either means you "lose your soul" or a foreign entity comes into your body. You can also have suffered from various esoteric ills that shamans can cure.

What makes Jeju shamanism unique?

It shares characteristics of shamanism across Japan, Mongolia and Russia. I think (Jeju shamanism) is unique because it's been contained by the island. It's a very strong phenomenon that has withstood many threats but could be on its last legs. The myths, the manner in which they are learned and expressed — particularly the snake spirit worship — are entirely unique to Jeju. It's a combination of many folk-beliefs with suspected origins from all around Asia that have melded over time. Inland and seaside villages have distinct ways of worship and there are regional differences within Jeju, too.



**‘THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL IS TO
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ARE NEGLECTING TO TAKE
AN INTEREST.’**

What are your goals for the film?

The most important goal is to raise the issue with people on Jeju that this is their cultural heritage — the mythology associated with shamanism — and that they are neglecting to take an interest. The second goal is to debut at the widest-reaching festival we can manage.

Why should we care about shamanism on Jeju?

It's a living system of oral tradition. It's also an example of a religion that some would write off as undeveloped, superstitious beliefs, but shamanism isn't like that at all. It's a highly developed system with rules, myths, morality, a hierarchical structure. Looking at Jeju mythology we can get a sense of what the god cults of Greece were like, for example, how they might have functioned in practice. I believe the canon of stories is important as well, which is the main focus of the film. Myths display cultural values but also have universal appeal, since all myths are related — so these stories are yet another unique body of literature we can turn to for study and inspiration. Jeju shamanism is most important to local residents, yet many have little real understanding of it.

How has shamanism evolved through Jeju's history?

As I understand it, there have been many migrations to the island. Some scholars suspect aspects came in from Southeast Asia and that the snake worship migrated from India; influences from Mongolia and other parts of Central Asia seem to play a role, too. There's been suppression from forces pushing Confucianism on the island as well. There was a famous incident a few

hundred years ago that everyone in Jeju knows about referred to as “500 temples and shrines.” A visiting dignitary from the mainland burned hundreds of shrines, but still didn’t succeed in destroying the practices and myths.

Shrines were destroyed again in the events of the “4.3 massacre” (wherein as many as 30,000 Jeju residents suspected of being Communist sympathizers were killed by South Korean forces) but the people rebuilt them. I was at a ceremony in a shrine where a tree burned in the massacre is now held up by a brace — this is a tree that’s several hundred years old, used as an old village marker. The tree is still thriving. The shaman commented that many people had died in the massacre in the village. People are talking so openly about the massacre now and that is inspiring.

What have been the effects of tourism on shamanism? Does Jeju’s tourism department use traditional shamanistic icons and beliefs to market itself?

Yes, very much so. And they are interested in developing it more as an attraction. UNESCO has designated the Young Deung goddess ceremony as a protected cultural asset, which is fantastic, but she is only one of Jeju’s hundreds of gods that are still worshipped, though in declining numbers. I hope the documentary will show what the real practice looks like and what form it actually takes amongst the people. People have fanciful and romantic ideas about shamanism here, but it should be seen, too, in actual practice, not through the distorted lens of culture parks.

Is shamanism tied to other defining Jeju traits such as dialect and geography? How has the reduction in practice affected these aspects of Jeju?

There are two distinct peoples in Jeju, the young generation and the old. The older generation speaks a different language and practices a different religion. It’s a situation where two generations are actually two different cultures. The shamanistic myths are tied to the dialect because the oral versions are taught and learned in dialect, though people can tell versions in standard language as well. The decline of the dialect and the displacement of communities due to young people leaving their villages are tied for sure.

Based on your research, what is in store for Jeju shamanism?

It’s hard to say. It’s survived despite so much opposition. Is it just the belief system of farmers, fishermen and women divers? Is it unsuitable for the modern era as the nature of the lifestyles associated with these endeavors shift? We can’t say that because Japan embraces similar practices even today in Shinto. I think it will be recognized more and more. More initiatives will be made to preserve the practices and the shrines. In fact, scholars in Jeju are working toward this all the time. What will be the focus and motivation behind the preservation, that’s what concerns me.

GROOVE

This interview has been edited and condensed. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of Groove Korea. — Ed.



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS STOCKS RIPE FOR THE PICKING

Indexes around the world have soared this year as the KOSPI has sagged. There might not be a better time to get into the market

Story by Daniel Tudor / Illustration by Jungeun Jang



● A couple of months ago, I wrote a column here about the Korean stock market. I used to trade for a living back in 2005 and 2006, so it's still a topic that friends sometimes ask me about. Even after seeking advice, however, very few actually end up taking the plunge.

Given that buying stocks in one's own country can be daunting, it's understandable that non-Koreans might choose to overlook the local market as well. For one, there is very little information available in any language other than Korean. Newspapers are also full of headlines like "Chaebol boss stole 85 billion won from company," and Japanese exporters are apparently using the cheaper yen as a way of delivering a belated slap to Samsung, Hyundai and the like.

But for those willing to ease into unfamiliar waters, herein lies an opportunity. Problems like the ones above are priced in to stocks very quickly. The consequence, it seems, is that the Korean stock market is cheap.

Because Korea is export-dependent, and because its business environment has always been less about "free market" capitalism than cozy, cronyism clubbishness, shares in large Korean companies are much cheaper than their rivals in other advanced countries.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniel Tudor, the Economist's Korea correspondent, writes about topics of interest in Korea today. Recently he released his first book "Korea: The Impossible Country," which has been the subject of articles and reviews in the Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time, and others. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Groove Korea. — Ed.

SHARES IN LARGE KOREAN COMPANIES ARE MUCH CHEAPER THAN THEIR RIVALS IN OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

The difference has grown even starker this year, with Japan's Nikkei index rising 33 percent since January. American stocks are up, and even triple-dip endangered Britain is doing quite well. (Life still stinks for the 2.5 million unemployed people in my native U.K. though, but that's another story.) Amid all of this growth, Korea's stock index, the KOSPI, has gone nowhere.

But not all Korean companies are doing badly. There are smaller firms you've probably never heard of that are growing rapidly, such as Daedeok GDS, AtlasBX and Gamevil. And what's more, the current stink over high-level thievery at chaebol like SK and Hanwha is changing the political environment; it's becoming less and less acceptable for such behavior to occur. One reason why Hanwha stock is so cheap is that many potential investors don't trust how the company is run.

Now that the government is responding to pressure from the public and media alike, chaebol families will finally have to start cleaning up their act. And that means that, over time, smaller shareholders will end up getting a fairer deal. Other things being equal should help drive up the value of their investments.

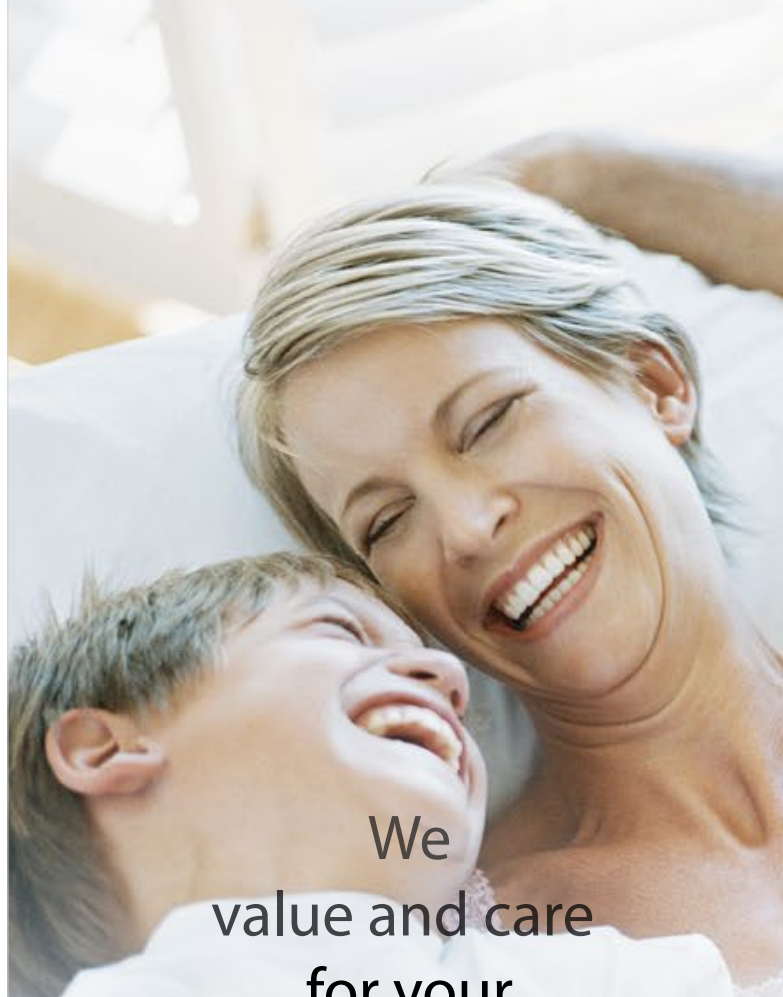
Meanwhile, there are still great opportunities with preferred stocks (우선주, useonju). These are special stocks that firms issue to raise extra money without giving up any of the voting rights usually offered to shareholders. Other than the lack of voting rights (which have negligible value under normal circumstances), they hold the same economic value as ordinary stocks, but because they are little understood and thinly traded, most investors steer clear of them.

In many cases, you can buy preferred stocks at a third of the price of ordinary shares. At the time of writing, Daelim Industrial trades at 95,000 won, but the preferred stock costs only 31,200 won. The preferred stock has the same claim on the future profits of the company, and also offers the same dividend. Daelim is a pretty solid enterprise, and at a price-earnings ratio (P/E — look this up if you don't know what it is) of just 3, the preferred stock is a steal.

Some investors have recently started capitalizing on this realization. In May, for example, preferred stocks rocketed; thankfully for me, I happened to have some.

Doosan preferred stock, which I highlighted in my last column, is up more than 50 percent. Watching the climb, I suddenly got the feeling that I was in a casino, so I took the profit and got out. These stocks are still cheap though, and I'm planning to get back in when the craziness dies down a little.

As long as you can stomach a certain level of risk, investing in the Korean stock market has its rewards, and if you make wise moves at the right times, there is money to be made. **GROOVE**



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NO PLACE LIKE HOME?

As you change, so too does the place you call home

Column by John M. Rodgers / Illustration by Jungeun Jang



● What exactly does “going home” mean for an expat? Is home the country of one’s birth, the state, province, county, city, town? Does it matter? Surely some people don’t have a proverbial home, but many of us have that archetypal place that we call home, a place that exists, forever in our psyches, that we can conjure in our minds — a certain street, oak and pine trees, granite stairs to the 6-panel door, the lamp on the maple lowboy in the hallway. Add to that memory palace all the other people — friends, enemies, teachers, doctors, coaches — and places — classrooms, churches, fields, rinks, courts, malls, campgrounds — that populate your formative years. In our memories those things remain largely unchanged, as in dreams, but in life we know they move on with time. That is, until you go home.

Disclosure: I grew up in a small New England town (pop. 3,000). I left that town at 18, returned on and off, finished university and, in less than a year, boarded a plane to South Korea. Thus most of what I left behind remained sealed in the context of high school (studies show our most vivid memories are from the ages of 15 to 25). Returning a decade later, post-30, in a sense, has been like stepping back into a strange surreality, a time warp but time has not been fooled, it rolls on as the human condition resists. How far afield you’ve been matters little once you meet your old middle school librarian, the same stern lady who kicked you and your pals out of the library for rough housing, among other tomfoolery.

You’ll often hear that people wind up in Korea because they are run-



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After a long stint in Korea, John M. Rodgers is back in the United States and writes about readjustment. He is a founding editor of The Three Wise Monkeys webzine and currently acts as Groove Korea’s editor-at-large. — Ed.

ning from something — “why else would they go?” those who never do ask. The claim, of course, is presumptuous, myopic and, sometimes, correct. Many — if not most — people are running from something whether they know it or not — much of that running begins in childhood, continues through adolescence and beyond. Abuse, failure, confusion, commitment, family, the law, expectations, the “real” world, you name it; there’s always something from which to run. Small town life is sure one; life in America is another. Myself, I figured I’d better do it when I could or I never would. Nonetheless, if some psychoanalyst sat me down and proposed that I might’ve been running from something, I sure could’ve entertained the idea. I bet anyone could. Anywhere.

I was in Texas visiting my sister this April when news came that the longtime police chief in my home town had resigned, relinquished his police credentials and disappeared into the backwoods from whence he came. The same guy had been a cop on the force when I was in high school; back then it seemed to me the cops were always trying to spoil a good time. Over the next few days the story came into focus: Twenty-seven year police veteran arrests an attractive — and drunk — 18-year-old coed who is walking down the middle of the road on a Sunday morning with a can of Bud Light; he processes the girl on his own; a few days later he calls her into the station where, over several hours, he allegedly proposes a perverted deal — pose nude, charges dropped; she refuses and instead contacts the Attorney General’s Office; a month later the chief cuts a deal with the attorney general, allegedly agreeing to resign and relinquish his police credentials in exchange for \$50,000 a year in retirement and no criminal charges; later, the attorney general states that the chief did not cooperate with the investigation.

Upon returning from Texas and in town to visit my Mom, I figured I’d poke around a bit, mostly out of curiosity but also because things seemed fishy. Following the initial news break, the attorney general announced that more girls had come forward but nothing further could be said due to the “ongoing” investigation. Meanwhile, the town was cleaning up the pieces. Soon I discovered that the police station had been ill-equipped for years with dead video cameras and no audio recording equipment in the interview rooms. The cruisers had no dash cams. Money for such equipment had disappeared. Negli-

gence came to mind and town selectmen meetings revealed schisms amongst town officials who drifted between bewilderment, denial, resentment and contempt. Then the town decided to bring in a county sheriff to review department policies and procedures — oddly the sheriff declared that the police needed to be protected.

THE LARGER LESSON HERE IS THAT HOME CHANGES AS YOU DO, YOUR PERSPECTIVES ALTERED, TIME’S LEVELING HUES CAST, AND WHAT YOU HOLD IS A PIECE OF THE PLACE THAT BRINGS YOU BACK WHILE REMINDING HOW FAR AWAY YOU’VE GOTTEN.

It was during this time that characters from my past emerged. While doing some research in the town offices, a familiar guy appeared from behind a door, wearing a fire department jacket. Though the head of hair he had in high school had long departed, I recognized him. “John Rodgers,” he said, squaring his shoulders and pushing out his chest. “Been a long time.” “Hi, Jay,” I said thinking it had not been long enough. A wannabe athlete and prep in school, I knew he’d somehow gotten appointed the town’s first full-time fire chief, though I had no idea why it needed one. “Haven’t you been in China or something?” he asked. “Korea,” I said as I scanned a town report. “Good time not to be there ... gonna be another war,” he said. “Nah, just the same old bombast,” I answered. “More saber...” he started and then several seconds passed. “Rattling, saber ‘rattling,’ Jay,” I said. Not long after, he exited and I couldn’t shake the feeling that high school had gone with him.

Another day, while I sat in a different office looking through selectmen’s minutes, I recognized the voice of a man who’d lumbered in to speak with the town administrator. Peter Bianchi, I thought, town selectman, excavation company own-

er, father of a kid with whom I attended school and played baseball and soccer. Also, the man who’d expressed public dismay over the chief’s fiasco. I kept my head down. He chatted for a while and then exited. As he rounded a back corner the receptionist chased after him and whispered something (I suspect info about my presence) at which he skulked back into the room and feigned a kick at the document I was reading to get my attention. “Mr. Bianchi,” I quickly said, standing up and shaking his hand. “What kinda trouble you causing now, John?” he asked in a thick New Hampshire accent. Minutes later I’d leveled all distinctions and had him presenting hypotheticals about the chief’s malfeasance. Nonetheless, as I bid him farewell he said, “You keep diggin’, boy!” with particular emphasis on the “boy.” Welcome home, kid.

I kept digging, wrote a piece about the developing absurdities and submitted it to the Concord Monitor, the state capital’s paper. After some back-and-forth with the editor, the piece came out one Friday on the editorial page and climbed the most read list online. By that time I’d headed north, out of town, but that didn’t matter. One guy from high school, a kid who’d been able to buy beer thanks to his size and older appearance, messaged me on Facebook saying he’d greatly enjoyed the piece and “remembered all too well” the inside of the local police station and the imperious cops who ran it. My Mom received complimentary calls from acquaintances. Small town politics gone big. Or not.

However that story plays out, the town will remain the same with one more story filed away in the collective consciousness (though next time one won’t have to pore over documents from the basement archives — search will do). I imagine the old chief will have more to run from — hard telling how long and far it’ll follow him given that he’s only 50 years old. His disgrace, in part, is the town’s, and that will not soon be forgotten. A high schooler caught cruising the local college dorms in a Jeep with a cooler-full of beer weighs much less on that consciousness.

And perhaps the larger lesson here is that home changes as you do, your perspectives altered, time’s leveling hues cast, and what you hold is a piece of the place that, like an old little league baseball trophy I pulled from a dusty box the other day, brings you back while reminding how far away you’ve gotten.

GROOVE

BREAKING DOWN INTERNET BANKING AND SECURITY

Like it or lump it, Korea has one of the most secure internet banking systems in the world

Story by Paul Sharkie / Illustration by Jungeun Jang



● The prospect of banking, or more specifically, online banking, often strikes several emotions in the hearts of the average consumer, leaving both customer and bank teller in a somewhat disgruntled state.

Between rubbing shoulders with foreigners at various social events and engaging in a little social media stalking, I've become very aware of how many people have dismissed online banking before trying it — a tendency that is primarily due to fear or dislike of the security measures implemented in Korea.

Granted, I know many people out there have no problems adopting or at least exploring online banking, but there is still an overwhelming number of people who avoid it at all costs.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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KOREA HAS A BANKING SYSTEM THAT IS ARGUABLY MORE SECURE ... ANY MINOR DIFFERENCES ARE JUST THAT – MINOR.

Great expectations

Living among expats, there is a common tendency to complain about things that are not akin to what we have in our home countries. (This is something that I am occasionally guilty of myself.) A simple approach to addressing this concern would be to state that, yes, there are many systems in Korea that are different, and this is something that we all have to deal with.

Korea has a banking system that is arguably more secure and extremely efficient; any minor differences are just that — minor. Overall, the positives and similarities far outweigh any initial teething problems. Given the ease of adopting the security measures here, it's definitely not worth choosing convenience over security.

What to expect

If you're interested in trying out one of the many online banking services, there is a certain process you should expect; first, you'll have to make a trip to the bank. Many people don't realize that they need to register for online banking in person before getting started. You should bring your passport and alien registration card with you, as these are necessary for security purposes.

At the time of registration, your teller will ask you to set up some passwords; there are usually two — a four-digit account personal identification number and a six- to eight-digit transfer password. It is vital that you remember these passwords because if you enter them incorrectly five times in a row (or 10 in the case of an O.T.P. device — keep reading), then your internet banking will be suspended until you visit a branch — in Korea and in person — to reset your passwords. This cannot be done over the phone or online.

The final steps will be for your teller to issue you with either a security code card or an O.T.P. (one-time password) device, after which you can download a digital certificate.

Completing these steps won't be easy at first, but you'll find yourself digesting not only the terminology but also the everyday use of these security measures, ultimately giving you the freedom to check your balance and transaction history, make domestic transfers, pay local bills and send money overseas 24 hours a day.

Next time, I'll be breaking down the aforementioned safeguards (digital certificates, online security code cards and one-time password devices), which often prompt the most discussion when it comes to online banking. **GROOVE**



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THE PERFECT PIZZA

Hannam pizzeria strives for authenticity

Story by **Josh Foreman** / Photos by **Melissa Hubley**

● If you import a massive brick oven from Italy, keep a tall stack of oak wood in your kitchen to feed said oven, and recruit a Bolognese pizza master to share with you the secrets of the perfect slice, then it's safe to say that you are serious about making pizza. And if Hannam's Vera Pizza Napoli is serious about anything, this would have to be it.

We recently visited the restaurant to try their pizza, not really knowing what the restaurant was all about. What we discovered is that it embodies the spirit of the new Hannam (and to some extent Itaewon): It's upscale, hip and frequented by young Koreans looking for an authentic taste of Italy.

The pizzeria is located in a monolithic black building near Hangangjin Station, but to see just how much the neighborhood has changed in the last couple years, I recommend walking there from Itaewon Station.

The first thing you'll notice after arriving is that Vera Pizza is the opposite of the traditional Korean restaurant in at least one way: Where the standard Korean eatery is decorated, er, minimalistically, Vera Pizza is decorated with aesthetic abandon.

Fake chili peppers, onions and garlic hang from the ceilings, tables are painted in pastels, Italian books and knickknacks line the walls. Real olive trees and huge rosemary bushes grow in terra cotta pots. The music is lively, and the wait staff is dressed professionally. Half the fun of eating at a place like this is taking in all the non-culinary sensory stimulation.

The aforementioned pizza master, Roberto Di Massa, was in the restaurant when we visited, teaching the staff how to properly make Napoli-style pizza. The three characteristics of a true Napoli pizza are a light red tomato sauce, white cheese and a golden crust, he says.

He brought me into the kitchen, the location of their massive oven, and asked me to hold my hand to the structure's half-moon-shaped opening. I did. It was very hot.

I looked inside, and the sticks of oak were off to one side, sending ribbons of flame up the sides and top of the oven as they burned. It's a lot of work to cook a little disc of dough, but the end result is superlative.

We tried the buffalo mozzarella margarita pizza and the mushroom pizza, priced at 25,000 won each. Both had the characteristics of genuine Napoli pizza: a balance of flavors highlighting the main ingredients in each. Both had a thin, chewy middle with a thick, airy crust.

The margarita pizza tasted more like a traditional pizza; it's hard to beat the combination of a light tomato sauce, basil and good-quality mozzarella.

While the margarita pizza had a light, fresh taste, the mushroom pizza was earthy and rich. Foregoing the tomato sauce altogether, its sauce was a flavorful mushroom puree. Paper-thin mushrooms covered the top, which had a chewy texture from the oven. Both pizzas were delicious and different, and didn't leave us feeling ill like lower-quality pizza often does.

All the pizzas at Vera Pizza are interesting and unique for Korea. Other pizzas feature toppings like eggplant, bacon and spinach, and ricotta and prosciutto, among others. The pizzeria also serves a few pasta dishes and some visually stunning mixed drinks, including a frozen coconut mojito.

GROOVE



I LOOKED INSIDE,
AND THE STICKS
OF OAK WERE
OFF TO ONE SIDE,
SENDING RIB-
BONS OF FLAME
UP THE SIDES
AND TOP OF THE
OVEN AS THEY
BURNED. THIS
SETUP MEANS IT
TAKES A LOT OF
WORK TO COOK
A LITTLE DISC OF
DOUGH, BUT THE
END RESULT IS
SUPERLATIVE.



GETTING THERE: Walk straight out of Hangangjin Station, exit 3. Vera Pizza Napoli will be on your left in the large, black building.

SUMMER SIPS

10 irresistible beers

Story and photos by **Josh Foreman**



LYDIA MIN, A BARTENDER AT MAGPI

- Summer is in full swing. Your thirst is great. You must drink beer. But not just any beer – light beer, crisp beer, beer that tastes like orange and grapefruit and has the golden color of summer wheat. You need refreshing beer to quench your thirst. Summer beer.

I spent a Sunday afternoon with Chris Holland — a Canadian who has helped Groove with tastings in the past — searching for the perfect summer beer. We looked all through Haebangchon, Kyungnidan and Itaewon. These three neighborhoods have become the epicenter of Korea's exploding craft-brew subculture. There are more fine beers available in this part of the city than you could drink in a week — nay, a month. And a number of them are made right here in the Korea.

Without further ado, here is your guide to finding thirst-quenching summer beer in the most reviled yet beloved part of the city: the HBC-Kyungnidan-Itaewon nexus.



1

PINOY MART

Haebangchon
Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Sinheung-ro 3-gil

Pinoy is Haebangchon's best-kept secret, a tiny mart adored by residents and unknown to those outside. Run out of butter? Pinoy has the stuff from Costco. Need bacon? They've got that, too, and not the thin kind that evaporates when you fry it. Pinoy has anything a foreigner could want, all packed into a tiny space between a chicken shop and Global Express, whatever that is.

And oh, yes, they also have beer. Bottles and bottles of glorious beer, mostly American and Filipino. If you're on a budget, you can relive your trip to Cebu with San Miguel and Red Horse. If you want something more refined, Pinoy has beers from American brewers Kona, Sam Adams, Anderson Valley and Rogue. We tried a summery golden ale from Kona.

THE BEER: Kona Big Wave Golden Ale

PRICE: 6,000 won

Kona beers are made in Hawaii, and they're nothing less than what you'd expect from an island paradise. Big Wave is citrusy, full-flavored and smooth, with a crisp bite at the finish. Holland captured the unique taste of the beer perfectly: grapefruit. The clear, golden beer has the refreshing tartness of the fruit, with a slightly bitter aftertaste. There's nothing heavy about this beer, and in the hot sun it is genuinely refreshing.

2

BONNY'S PIZZA PUB

Haebangchon
Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Sinheung-ro 3-gil 2

Bonny's is the best thing to happen to Haebangchon since Casablanca (a sandwich shop we praised in November 2011). Open for less than a year, the pizza pub immediately found its way into expats' hearts: cheap, tasty pizza and quality beer. Their comfortable open-air space, complete with a wraparound patio, doesn't hurt either. Bonny's is the perfect example of an expat-gear ed eatery that got it right.

Bonny's is hopping just about any day of the week, and Sunday was no exception. HBC hipsters were scattered throughout the place, drinking, smoking and soaking up the sun. Bonny's has three glass-front refrigerators full of about 70 hard-to-find beers. It's self-serve, so pick the beer you want, pay at the desk, and settle in for some people watching.

The beer: Magners Irish Pear Cider

Price: 7,000 won

I'm a sucker for cider, and this is about as good as it gets. Magners is champagne-pale and mild, with a strong pear flavor at the finish. A friend recommended we drink it in a tall glass full of ice, so we did, and it was delicious. In terms of alcoholic drinks, I can't imagine anything could be more refreshing. Fizzy, icy, slightly sweet, Magners was a treat in the heat of the day. One down, 69 to go...



3

CRAFTWORKS

Kyungnidan

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon 2-dong 651



The progenitor of this area's brewpubs, Craftworks is as popular as ever. The chic layout of the tucked-away pub and the combination of tasty microbrews and upscale pub food make this a perennial favorite. In the summertime, the folks at Craftworks turn their outdoor porch into a cool, shady respite. When we visited, most of the customers were sitting outside, laughing, drinking and munching on dishes such as bangers and mash, stir-fry and chorizo sandwiches.

Craftworks serves eight Korea-brewed beers, and several of them would do for a cool summer drink. With a Kolsch, a Pilsner, a golden ale and a pale ale on the menu, you could make an afternoon out of it. Craftworks has a full menu of high-quality pub food, and a brunch menu for weekends.

THE BEER: Namsan Pure Pilsner

PRICE: 6,000 won

Cloudy, hoppy and earthy, this wasn't the Pilsner we expected — it was tastier and more complex. Craftworks has a reputation to uphold, and they are doing so with this unique offering. It's clear they put a lot of thought into their recipes; each beer has its own glass, its own creative logo and its own T-shirt. Sitting on their secluded patio, drinking creatively brewed beer, it's easy to forget you're in a bustling Asian city.

4

MAGPIE BREWING COMPANY

Kyungnidan

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon 2-dong 691

What is it about Magpie that draws a crowd, day after day? Is it the concrete walls and floor? The grilled cheese? The huge boiler pots behind the bar that connote brewing authority? Or is it their exquisitely balanced and delicious beers? Though there are a few factors to sway my judgment on this one, I'd have to say that, yes, it's the beer.

Magpie makes just two beers: a porter and a pale ale. It's hard to say which is better; I've always liked the porter more, but on a hot day the pale ale might be the winner. Magpie is small enough that you can hang out by the bar and talk to the staff. The owners, who created the recipes for Magpie's beers, are often at the bar. The staff is also quite knowledgeable and willing to educate customers on the nuances of their beers. Magpie has a very small menu, with two beers, grilled cheese, and cheese and nuts on offer. But when your offering is good, you don't need much more.

THE BEER: Magpie Pale Ale

PRICE: 5,000 won

"The thing about our beers is that they're very balanced," says Lydia Min, one of Magpie's staff. And she's right — both of the beers are balanced and delicious. The pale ale is crisp, citrusy and hoppy, with a bitter finish and a full mouth-feel. You can almost taste orange peel in the beer. Though aesthetics aren't everything, we couldn't help but notice how its deep amber color captures the sunlight streaming in through the pub's open front wall. We tried the porter too, and while it might not be as good a summer beer as the pale ale, it is also delicious and not overly heavy.



5

THE BOOTH

Kyungnidan

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon 2-dong 704

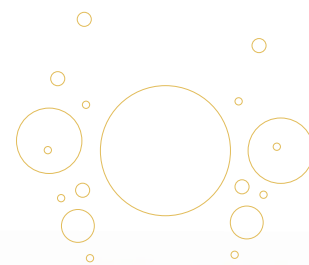
One of the newest places we visited on our tasting is the Booth – an interesting and cozy hangout new to the alley that Magpie calls home. The interior is unique in Korea: the chairs are stacked pallets, the tables are boxes and steel drums and graffiti decorates the concrete walls. Like Magpie, the Booth has a very simple menu. They serve pizza and beer — pepperoni and cheese pizza, and Bill's Beer, a recipe thought up by Bill Miller, a local brewer.

The space is new enough that it wasn't busy on a Sunday afternoon. We were able to sit and chat with one of the co-owners, Sunghoo Yang, while we munched on pepperoni pizza. Yang is a big fan of Monster Pizza in Hongdae, so they use the Monster recipe at their pub. It's thin and covered with crispy pepperoni — the perfect companion to a mug of fizzy beer.

THE BEER: Bill's Beer

PRICE: 5,000 won

Bill's Beer is a pale ale, but they could've fooled me. "It would be considered at the level of IPA," Yang says. It's caramel-colored, very fizzy and very hoppy. It has a lower alcohol content than an IPA, which is about the only difference. If you love bitter, hoppy, flavorful beers, you'll love the beer at the Booth. They're also planning a true IPA for release in the fall.



6

THE SPRINGS

Kyungnidan

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon 2-dong 658

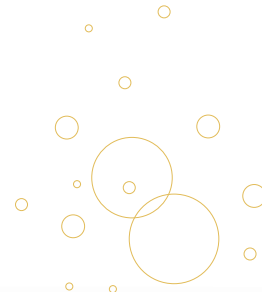
Kyungnidan's newest brewpub, the Springs, imports its beer from Mission Springs Brewing Company in British Columbia. Located at the corner of the Kyungnidan main road and Noksapyeong-daero, the Springs is a small space aiming to appeal to customers looking for upscale pizza and beer.

It's a good spot for people watching, since the intersection it overlooks is always abuzz with pedestrians. The Springs has two outdoor tables and eight indoor tables. Each of its eight craft brews has its own unique throwback artwork and enticing name. When we saw the Cherry Bomb Belgian-Style Pale Ale, we had to try it.

THE BEER: Cherry Bomb Belgian-Style Pale Ale

PRICE: 9,000 won

The beer arrived at our table in an unusual round glass. Clear and red with little carbonation, it was different from the other beers we tried in our tasting. Sweet-smelling with a tart, syrupy aftertaste, the departure was interesting, but not quite what we were looking for on a hot day. It was one of a few beers we tried that sounded great but turned out to not be exactly what we wanted. It had little carbonation and was a little too heavy for us, but it was definitely unique and added some variety to our tasting.



7

HAN'S STORE

Itaewon

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon-dong | 18-73

This is Itaewon's version of Pinoy Mart, a small mart appealing to those with good taste and plenty of disposable income. Han's Store's biggest draw is its selection of beer; they have many that weren't offered at the other places we visited, including expensive varieties such as Hitachino Nest and Chimay.

We stopped in, and the zombified sales clerk watched sports on TV as we browsed their impressive selection. We settled on the expensive Hitachino Nest Real Ginger Ale because the name just sounded too good to pass up. We took our beer outside and sat at one of Han's Store's tables, trying to take notes on our beer as an exceptionally drunk Bosnian ranted about Muslims next to us.

THE BEER: Hitachino Nest Real Ginger Ale

PRICE: 9,800 won

Nine-thousand eight hundred won is a lot to pay for a bottle of beer, so we were expecting something exceptional when we bought it. Unfortunately, we got something that didn't quite meet our expectations. We imagined something spicy and carbonated, something refreshing with the pale yellow color of ginger. Instead, the beer was a dark caramel color, heavy and spicy with a syrupy aftertaste. It certainly smelled of ginger, but it wasn't the refreshing, crisp beer we wanted. Should've gone with the white ale. But at nearly 10,000 won a bottle, we weren't about to buy another one.



8

KAJA CHANGGO

Itaewon

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon-dong | 16-15

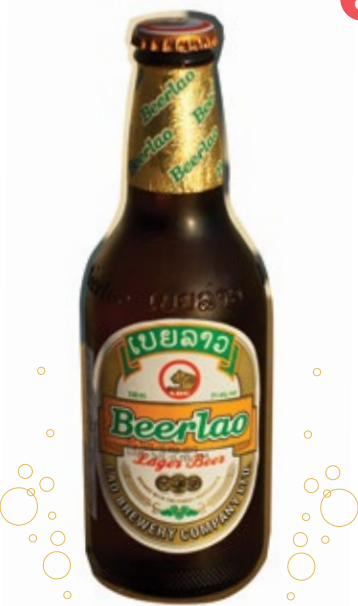
Colloquially known as "the place above Sam Ryan's," Kaja Changgo has made a reputation for itself as a place where you can get your own beer out of the fridge and take it to your table and drink it. The thing that Kaja Changgo's got going for it is its location. It has a large rooftop that overlooks Itaewon, a good place to soak up some sun while sipping cold bottled beer.

As we drank, the sun began setting and a "Sunday wastoid crew" celebrated sloppily nearby. Kaja Changgo is low on polish, the kind of place where you can do what you want because everyone else is doing whatever they want. The outdoor furniture is weathered and the floor is covered in chipped gray paint. It has something of a Southeast Asian vibe, so we decided to try a Southeast Asian classic.

The beer: Beerlao Lager

Price: 4,000 won

You've probably had it before – probably in Laos. It has a special place in many expats' hearts. "Lives up to its reputation as the best beer of Southeast Asia," Holland wrote after we cracked it open and tried it. It's light, fizzy and malty, uncomplicated and cheap, which is sometimes exactly what you want on a hot day. There's not much more to say about Beerlao. It's half the price of many of the beers we tried, but only 1,000 won less than the best beer we tried, Magpie's Pale Ale. If you want a great location for your session and a cheap, unpretentious beer, this might be the place for you.



9

REILLY'S TAPHOUSE

Itaewon

Seoul, Yongsan-gu, Itaewon-dong | 23-32



Reilly's is Itaewon's great tap house — a place with more beers on tap than maybe any other place on the peninsula. Reilly's is new and exciting every time you come, because you get to try a new draft that you've likely never heard of before. They have their own beers as well as beers from around the world, including the American ale we tried. At the end of the day, it's a classy joint that draws more beer aficionados than binge drinkers. The fiery red-haired waitress, M.J., was flirtatious and funny, and chatted with us about Sunday drinkers while we drank on Sunday.

"You know Sunday Funday?" she says. "Sunday Funday people? Ugh. I hate."

We found a spot at the long wooden bar and cracked open the surprisingly good beer we had chosen.

THE BEER: Anderson Valley Summer Solstice

PRICE: 8,500 won

Summer Solstice turned out to be the biggest surprise of the day, a beer that smelled like cotton candy and tasted like cream soda. Upon seeing its deep amber color, we thought we'd mistakenly ordered another too-heavy beer. But it turned out Summer Solstice was sweet and fizzy, with a unique creamy taste that rises to the back of your throat and then disappears. It was also one of the few beers we tasted worth a price tag above 5,000 won.

8

CU MART (ETC.)

Everywhere

What kind of list would this be without a mention of Korea's most ubiquitous summer drinking spot? There are a dozen in Haebangchon, Kyungnidan and Itaewon, not to mention littered across the country, and each of them has the ubiquitous plastic chairs where expatriates and Koreans alike will sit and drink beer in the warmer months.

We stopped by CU Mart on the way home from Reilly's. The CU Mart on the main street of Haebangchon has a wooden patio with a couple of tables, which are always occupied. And nowadays you aren't just limited to Hite and Cass (though to be honest, the selection is lacking after a day of tasting microbrews from around the world). We chose one European standby and relaxed as the sun set.

The beer: Pilsner Urquell

Price: 3,800 won

Clear and crisp with a light head, Pilsner Urquell is the world's oldest pilsner and the one I associate most with the style. It's crisp and hoppy, light and refreshing, and it's probably CU Mart's tastiest beer. It also happens to be the cheapest beer we tasted all day. If you want to enjoy a decent foreign beer for cheap, one of the area's many convenience stores will do just fine.

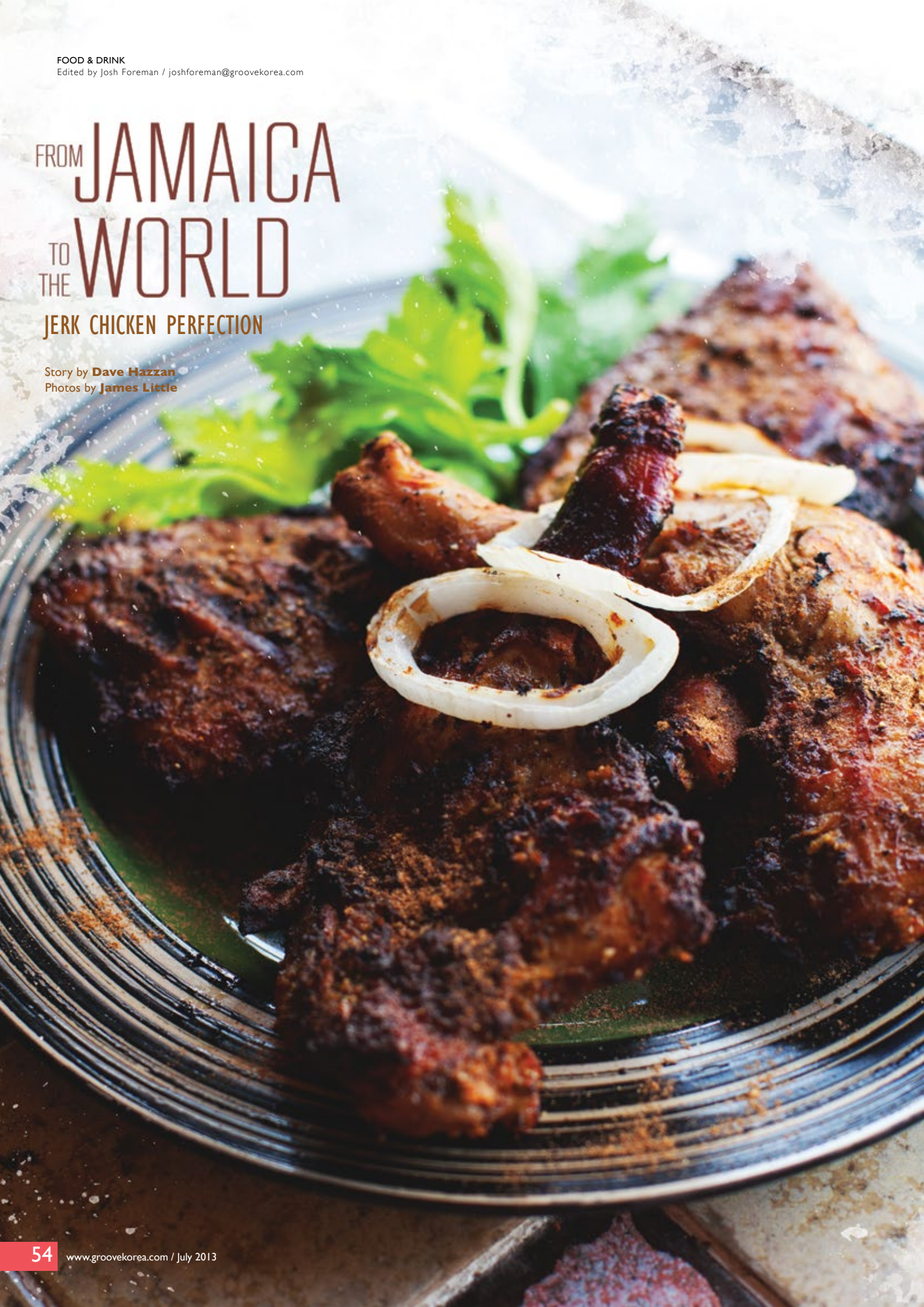
GROOVE



FROM JAMAICA TO THE WORLD

JERK CHICKEN PERFECTION

Story by **Dave Hazzan**
Photos by **James Little**



● If you ask anyone with a passing knowledge of Caribbean culture to name a dish from the region, they'll likely come up with jerk chicken. Its recipe may date back to pre-slavery West Africa, but today it's as synonymous with Jamaica as reggae music and blasting a mighty spliff on the beach. Zion Boat, a new restaurant in Hongdae, is offering a very good selection of chicken and reggae, even if their ganja is made of plastic.

Shim Gun is the enthusiastic owner of the establishment, and his English is impressive. Of Zion Boat's origins, he says, "Seven years ago I traveled to Japan, to Fukuoka. They had a reggae/ska festival there — Sunset Live. There was a jerk chicken restaurant called Natty Dread. I was impressed. The owner taught me to make jerk chicken, so I prepared for a long time and (in March) I opened."

The restaurant is small and cozy, with a relaxed and dimly lit atmosphere. They play a great rock-steady mix, and there's a guitar that anyone with a little talent is allowed to strum.

Besides the requisite Bob Marley poster and plastic pot leaves, the decor is mostly Japanese handbills for Caribbean musicians. There's been an obvious effort to make the place feel authentic, giving the idea that Shim knows what he's doing even before you taste the chicken.

The meal begins with free coleslaw, celery and dip. Following that, the jerk chicken comes in two choices: original or spicy.

The original chicken is marinated with 18 seasonings, including onion and garlic, grilled, and served skin-on. It has a very smoky flavor with a little bit of kick to it.

Their spicy offering, by contrast, is not for the faint of heart. The sauce is what Shim calls "Korean-style jerk," and includes Asian red pepper, cayenne and other spices. Served thick enough for your chicken legs to swim in it, it's an angry sauce. But combined with the marinade and the smokiness, it's also surprisingly delicious. Fortunately for those looking to taste food again in the hours following their meal, the spiciness stops just short of being obscene, skipping the brutal after-burn you get from buldak (spicy chicken) or other similar Korean dishes. Make no mistake: It will still sear your tongue, but you can also taste the garlic, allspice and cayenne alongside the kick. If spice is a problem, however, you are urged to get the (equally delicious) original. But for those who can handle it, this is the vindaloo of Caribbean cooking. It's also very reasonably priced at 5,500 won for one leg and 17,500 won for four.

There are also other options on the menu. The jerk chicken burger is served with the skin on and comes with lettuce, tomato, ketchup, mayonnaise and pickles. The meat is tender, arriving with a sweet tang and a bit of spice too. At 6,500 won, it's also a very good value, though it does not come with fries. Another possibility is the Jamaican curry rice, a dish that gets rave reviews. It's also a little sweet and spicy, and is normally only served at lunch.

Unfortunately, we were less enthusiastic about the Trenchtown salad, which, although light with no strong flavors, is priced at 12,000 won. The vegetarian version we tried had some bacon bits inside, so vegetarians should be explicit about their needs before ordering.

Overall, our chief complaint was with the side dishes, which were sorely missed with some of the entrees. Despite there being rice with the lunch menu and the curry, we were told there was "no rice" for the jerk chicken, even if we ordered it separately. Any vegetables or starch have to be ordered from a side menu, which seemed a bit overpriced, considering how reasonable the mains are. A plate of potatoes and onion rings, for example, is 12,000 won. The roasted and breaded potatoes we tried were excellent, but the onion rings, served with sour cream and ketchup, were a tad soggy. If you choose to skip the side menu altogether, you're stuck with just the free celery and coleslaw — a bit of a letdown given the strength of the mains.

On the drinks front, there is a cooler full of Singha beer and Thai Singha, though no Red Stripe or other Caribbean brands. (Shim hints that he's working on this.) Max is available on tap. An alcoholic specialty that is worth checking out is the Ali Tonic cocktail, a blend of Cuban honey rum, tonic, lemon and ice that goes down like the nectar of the gods.

A lunch special is available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features jerk chicken with rice for 8,000 won.

The service is fast and Shim Gun hopes it remains that way, even when he plans to take some time off again this year to attend Sunset Live in Fukuoka. In the meantime, he plans to host irregular nights of reggae, ska and other Caribbean music. The restaurant already held one back on March 16, and Shim hopes to do it again soon.

Otherwise, Shim recreates a Jamaican atmosphere in Hongdae as well as can be hoped. Highly recommended. **GROOVE**



GETTING THERE: Go to Hapjeong Station (lines 2 and 6) and take exit 5. Turn right at the bicycle shop. Walk straight about 150 meters until you see a pink signboard on the left for 행운부동산 (a real estate agency). Turn left. The restaurant is on the left.

ADDRESS: 396-24 Seokyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul (1.5 fl)

CONTACT: Phone: (070) 8953-6473, (010) 4524-8269
Email: suggyside@naver.com
Online: www.facebook.com/Zionboatjamaican-jerkchicken

Open 11:30 a.m. to midnight, 1:30 on Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday hours irregular. Reservations accepted.

Open from 11:30 a.m. to midnight during the week, and to 1:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday hours vary. Reservations are accepted.



IT ALL BEGINS WITH PASTA

Column and photos by **Shelley DeWees**

● In your tiny apartment, under the glare of the brightest fluorescent light in the history of mankind, there is a treasure you didn't even know you possessed. It's got your number, baby, just waiting for you to saunter on up and get working.

Armed with nothing but the most basic tools, you can coerce amazingly sexy things out of that little room, not to mention more

than a few pinched pennies, saved calories and bragging rights.

It all starts in the kitchen. Knowing how to cook, even for yourself, is a pearl of knowledge. There is absolutely nothing that will change your life more than the moment you take control of that single square of counter space, lay out your 10,000 won worth of tools, and kick it like you know what's what (even if you're faking).

Ultimate control is in your grasp. Feel the power: Since you're responsible for the introduction of every ingredient, you get to use them as you see fit. Not jammin' on spicy heat? Leave it out. Totally nuts for nuts? Add as many as your heart desires. You can coax character and personality out of food that restaurateurs haven't even thought of, not in their dizziest pickle-and-peanut-butter daydreams.

Skinny pants?: Portions at Casa de You are mind bogglingly more reasonable than anywhere else, and there's simply no reason to eat an entire bowl of so-so dinner when your own rockin' creation can be packed up and saved for tomorrow. Thinking about food, planning around it and executing a recipe with passion are among the simplest ways to reduce your caloric consumption. Plus, you get to do it in your pajamas.

5-sense pornography is better than the original: Smell the amazing aromas. Feast your rice-weary eyeballs on new colors and textures. Listen to that sizzle with anticipation. Preparing a meal wraps your senses in food foreplay, and that first bite will be ecstasy. Hot bubbly bliss. Dreams!

Where to start: Hollandaise is not the answer. Pasta is. Cheap, easy to attain and requiring no fancy gadgetry, pasta is a burgeoning chef's perfect beginning. A simple yet staggeringly delicious pasta dish will be your gateway drug to cooking, full and complete addiction guaranteed.

Master the basics of pasta cooking and you will, naturally, be the master.

1. Procure a proper pot

Take yourself to Daiso and pick out the deepest pot you can find. You have just met your best friend. (I only paid 3,000 won for mine, and we're tight.) Always use your BFF no matter how much pasta you plan to make because noodles need ample space to jive around in there without getting stuck to their neighbors. They'll get way too friendly if you don't give them some room. And while we're on the subject ...

2. Use lots of water

Again, it's a question of space. Fill up your cheapo pot as high as it'll go without boiling over, and remember to take into account the volume of noodles you'll be adding.

3. Get thyself to a full boil

This, the most common pasta mistake, will be your fastest ticket to flavorless cafeteria noodles and sad faces all around the table: Crank

the stove all the way up, drop a lid on the pot, then walk away and go back to your knitting. The only indicator of appropriately heated water is a full, rolling boil, one that doesn't go away when you stir.

4. Use salt. A lot of salt

There's a reason why Italian mamas always have a little box of sea salt right by the stove. When your water comes to a nice, big boil, add a liberal palm-full of salt, about 4 tablespoons if you insist on measuring. Don't overdo it if your pot is on the small end (see No. 1), but don't skimp either. Salt your water.

5. Take up arms ... with a wooden spoon

Right after you add the noodles and during the first few minutes of cooking, give the pot a good stir every 90 seconds.

6. Learn to love a test

How will you know when the pasta is done? For all the difficulty this question has posed to the culinary world, it's not surprising that for every chef there's a different answer.

Suffice it to say, the only foolproof way to know whether you've got crunchy shoelaces or a gluey mess in there is to test. Fish out a noodle with your wooden spoon and try it out. If it's white in the center or tastes like starch, it needs to be cooked longer. But if it's reached the consistency you'd want on the plate, the pasta will be overcooked by the time you've drained it.

A conundrum indeed. Ultimately, you want to aim for chewy on the outside and firm on the inside, which takes a considerable amount of noodle-testing (I usually test every 30 seconds once I know the noodles are nearing completion). The pasta will quickly pass out of this golden state, so once it's acquired you'll need to get the cooking stopped code red, so ...

7. Use a strainer

Draining water out of the pot needs to be a fast affair; no bumbling or fumbling allowed. Put the strainer in your sink and dump. Solved. However, consider your pasta recipe before you toss out all the water, since many of them require a cup or two of starchy cooking water to stir into the sauce. "Look before you dump" is good advice anytime.

Hot pasta absorbs more flavor, so it's important to get them sauced before things go cold. Have the sauce and toppings ready to go so you can toss everything together without delay. One of these beginner-friendly options will have you salivating before you can say, "Where's the wine?" Get into it! **GROOVE**

LEMONY LENTIL ALFREDO

Here, cooked red lentils are blitzed in a blender to make the creamiest, dreamiest, sexiest butter-free alfredo sauce imaginable.

2 3/4 cups water
3/4 cup red lentils
1 onion, roughly chopped (big chunks are okay; everything will get pureed)
3-4 cloves garlic, slightly minced (see above)
2 tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 500-gram package of pasta, cooked (any kind will do)

DIRECTIONS

In a small saucepan with a lid, bring the water, lentils, onion and garlic to a boil over high heat. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until lentils are very tender, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat.

Using a ladle, carefully place the hot lentil mixture in your blender. Add the lemon juice, salt and pepper and blend until very smooth. The sauce will immediately begin to thicken in the blender. Let it stand while you boil and drain your pasta perfectly, reserving a bowl of starchy cooking water.

Now, decide how saucy you want your noodles. Those who prefer a lighter texture may only need half the lentil mixture and a few spoonfuls of pasta water, while others may prefer the whole lentil enchilada.

Gently toss together a measure of lentil sauce, a splash of water, and the hot noodles until your desired texture is achieved (this is a slapdash affair — no measuring needed).

Taste for salt, adding more to your taste. Garnish generously with cracked pepper and a few extra squirts of lemon. Serve with crusty bread and any remaining lentil sauce on the side.

PASTA AL POMODORO

Effortless and light, this summery dish will allow your perfectly cooked noodles to really shine. Such simple fare calls for a bit of quality choosiness at the grocery store, but don't sweat it. I was heartily satisfied with an 8,000 won bottle of Pietro Coricelli olive oil and a bag of Beksul Natural Salt, both from HomePlus. This recipe is also rife with possibilities for embellishment, whether in the form of a few leaves of fresh basil or a sprinkling of pungent cheese.

1/4 cup olive oil
2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
3-4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 500-gram package of pasta, cooked

DIRECTIONS

Combine the olive oil, tomatoes, garlic, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Toss in hot, freshly cooked pasta. Taste for salt, adding more to taste. Serve with crusty bread and a bold red wine.

Deliberately Different Beer

HONEY BROWN LAGER



허니 브라운

스타일: 다크 브라운 라거

도수: 5.0%

색상: 호박(보석)색과 흰물결 모양의 헤드(거품)

주성분: 캐러멜 & 페일 맥아, 꿀, 두 가지의 홉

특성: 캐나다산 1등급의 천연 꿀이 들어간 라거 맥주
크림같은 부드러운 맛이 특징이며 여성 선호도 높음

HONEY BROWN

STYLE: Dark Lager.

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 5.0%

COLOUR: Amber with white, billowy head.

KEY INGREDIENTS: Blend of pale and caramel
malts, as well as honey from Three Hills, and
two varieties of hops.

CHARACTER: Sweet and honey/molasses flavour,
slightly hopped with fuller mouth feel.

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STYLE: Brown Ale.
COLOUR: Deep copper with garnet flashes.
KEY INGREDIENTS: Three varieties of hops, and a blend of caramel, pale and black malts.
CHARACTER: Fills your mouth with a fusion of toasty malt and sweet caramel up front finishing with a nutty flavour, medium creamy carbonation.



STYLE: Wheat Ale.
COLOUR: Golden yellow.
KEY INGREDIENTS: Three types of pale and wheat malts.
CHARACTER: Light on the palate, yet packed with flavour and European hop aroma, with fruity or citrusy notes.



STYLE: India Pale Ale.
COLOUR: Golden amber.
KEY INGREDIENTS: British-style hops known as Fuggles. Seriously.
CHARACTER: A classic ale dry hopped to lend a distinctive character. Spicy warm, earthy.



STYLE: Brown Ale.
COLOUR: Warm reddish light brown.
KEY INGREDIENTS: Blend of pale, caramel and black malts and a blend of three hop varieties.
CHARACTER: Malty with a hint of toffee balanced with very evident hop and followed by a clean finish.



STYLE: Irish Red Ale.
COLOUR: Caramel coloured with a reddish hue.
KEY INGREDIENTS: Blend of pale, caramel and black malts, and three varieties of hops.
CHARACTER: Sweet and hoppy, caramel and dark fruity plum notes.



STYLE: Scottish Style Heavy Ale.
COLOUR: Bronze with toffee tones.
KEY INGREDIENTS: Pale malt, caramel malt, peated malt, munich malt, hops.
CHARACTER: Strong and full bodied with a complex mix of toffee, caramel, vanilla and a hint of peat.



STYLE: Light lime Lager.
COLOUR: Soft gold.
KEY INGREDIENTS: Pure malted barley, hops, water and lime.
CHARACTER: Light body with slight lime aroma and flavour.



STYLE: Dry Cider.
COLOUR: Light yellow (varies by batch).
KEY INGREDIENTS: Okanagan apples, pears.
CHARACTER: Apple with notes of vanilla and cinnamon, mouth feel is crisp and dry.

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10 THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR GUESTS

Impress your visitors, and become a tourist again

Story by **Monique Simpson**

Photos by **Matthew Lamers, Wookeon Park, Lieven Van Melckebeke**

● Since retiring in 2010, my mother has been full of energy. She's visited me in Japan, Ecuador and Korea. We met up in Peru and explored Machu Picchu together.

You might think that having an enthusiastic, world-traveling mother is a good thing, but that means an easygoing itinerary won't cut it; real planning is needed to ensure she leaves the peninsula with great memories. I don't want her telling my grandma that her trip was anything less than perfect.

Here's a cheat sheet that will satisfy any visitor to Seoul. Here's hoping these experiences and getaways impress your guests as much as they did my mother.



1

SEE IT ALL — SEOUL CITY TOUR

I was skeptical at first, but my mother loved it. The beauty of the Seoul City Tour is that you can get on and off the bus at any destination without time restraints. There are four courses, the City Circle Course, Cheonggye Course, Night Course and the Traditional Market Course. All the city's popular tourist attractions can be visited, from Namsan Tower to Dongdaemun Market to Itaewon and the National Museum of Korea. Little planning is needed to make this a fun and exciting option.

Bonus: A one-day pass comes with discounts to 17 places throughout Seoul.

Getting there: Buy a ticket at Gwanghwamun Station, line 5, exit 6.

More info: www.seoulcitybus.com
(02) 777-6090

2

CRUISING THE HAN — HAN RIVER FERRY CRUISE

One place to start this cruise is Yeouido. This small island — home to the nation's National Assembly and referred to by Koreans as "Korea's Manhattan" — is spectacular during the day, but takes on a mystical air at night. The cruise meanders up the Han River, allowing you to take in the sparkling lights of Seoul's urban landscape at night. The highlight is the rainbow water display on the Banpo Bridge. The trip costs 11,000 won and there are three places to get on and off the ferry: at the Yeouido, Jamsil, and Ttukseom docks.

Getting there: Buy a ticket at Yeouido Dock, a five-minute walk from Yeouinara Station, line 5, exit 3.

More info: www.hcruise.co.kr
(02) 3271-6900

Photo by Wookeon Park



3

RETHINKING ATTRACTIONS — INSADONG/BUKCHON

The key to visiting touristy places is finding new ways to explore them. One way to enhance a visit to Insadong and Bukchon is to take a pedicab tour. Your personal cyclist will give detailed information of the area while allowing you to zip through the city without breaking a sweat.

Getting there: Catch a pedicab at Anguk Station, line 3, exit 1.

More info: www.facebook.com/arteein
(02) 1666-1693



4

STREETS MADE FOR WALKING — DOWNTOWN SEOUL

Any good vacation includes a stroll through the streets to discover a city's architecture and cultural landmarks. To get a taste of the urban splendor of industrialized Korea, there's no better place than downtown Seoul. Start at City Hall Station; first walk to Seoul Plaza to compare the new and old city halls. Next, cross the street to see the Deoksugung Palace Royal Guard-Changing Ceremony (11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. except Mondays). Stroll the palace grounds if time permits. Grab a sandwich from Café Mama or Long Bread Café and have a picnic lunch along Cheonggye Stream. Continue up the main road to Gwanghwamun Square. Make sure to visit the Admiral Yi and King Sejong museums, which are beneath the plaza. End the day with a tour of Gyeongbokgung Palace.

Getting there: Start your adventure at City Hall Station, line 1, 2, exit 5.

More info: Deoksugung Palace Royal Guard-Changing Ceremony
www.royalguard.or.kr

Cheonggye Stream
www.cheonggyecheon.or.kr

Deoksugung Palace
www.deoksugung.go.kr

Sejong Center for the Performing Arts
www.sejongpac.or.kr/eng

Other palaces downtown
www.royalpalace.go.kr



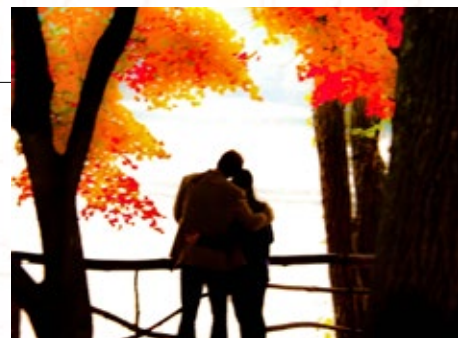
5

OFF THE TOURIST TRACK — SILLIM

Looking for a less touristy adventure? Visit Sillim to mix sightseeing with outdoor adventure. You can rent a bicycle and bike to the Han River; hike Gwanak Mountain and visit Seoul National University, or stroll through Boramae Park and have a picnic. Afterwards, treat yourself to a traditional lunch.

Getting there: To get to Gwanak Mountain, go to Seoul National University Station, line 2, exit 3.

More info: www.gwanak.go.kr



7

THEATRE NIGHT — NONVERBAL SHOW

You don't have to know Korean to enjoy some of the country's best artistic performances. These nonverbal shows provide laughs and excitement through live, interactive performances. The most popular are "Nanta" and "Ballerina Who Loves a B-Boy."

Getting there: There are three "Nanta" theatres, at Jeong-dong, Myeong-dong and in Gangnam. "Ballerina Who Loves a B-Boy" plays at City Hall Station, line 1 or 2, exit 1 or 12. Walk along the stone wall of Deoksugung Palace for a few hundred meters. Chongdong Theater is on your right.

More info: "Nanta"
<http://nanta.i-pmc.co.kr/nanta>
(02) 739-8288

"Ballerina Who Loves a B-Boy"
www.showbboy.com
(02) 1599-9727



6

CHEF FOR A DAY — COOKING CLASS

What better way to explore a new culture than in the kitchen? Several companies and organizations offer cooking classes throughout the city. There are even makgeolli-brewing classes. We suggest the Food & Culture Korea Academy.

Getting there: To get to the Food & Culture Korea Academy, go to Gyeongbokgung Station, line 3, exit 2. Walk one block and the F&CK academy is on the 5th floor of the Saemaul Gumgo building.

More info: <http://koreanrecipe.co.kr>
(02) 720-6704



8

GANGNAM STYLE — TRENDS AND TEMPLES

Even before Psy, Gangnam was a Seoul hotspot, but now it's become a must-see place for all tourists. After checking out the main street shops, cafés and restaurants, continue on to the ancient Bongeun Temple. Although it's surrounded by the chaos of Seoul, you can still find a serene moment (they also offer temple stays).

Getting there: To get to Bongeun Temple, go to Samseong Station, line 2, exit 6. Go straight for about half a kilometer and turn left. Bongeunsa Temple is straight ahead.

More info: bongeunsa.org/eng
(02) 3218-4895



Photo by Lieven Van Melckebeke

9

SLOW IT DOWN — NAMI ISLAND

If the fast pace of Seoul is a bit overwhelming, a day trip to Nami Island showcases Korea's more serene side. Famed for its picturesque trees, you can spend the day walking and biking in the hills. Before taking the ferry, sample Chuncheon's famed dak galbi (spicy chicken). Many movies and dramas have been filmed on the island, so a Korean movie night here would be the ideal end to a day of sightseeing.

Getting there: Getting to Nami Island has been simplified since a new subway line was opened. From Gapyeong Station, Gyeongchun Line, follow the throngs of people to the ferry dock. If there aren't thousands of people, you are in the wrong place.

More info: www.namisum.com
(031) 580-8153



10

THE "HAWAII OF KOREA" — JEJU ISLAND

Known as the ultimate Seoul escape and honeymooners' paradise, this island provides something for everyone. Sunning on some of Korea's best beaches is an option, but you can also explore Halla Mountain, see ajummas in wetsuits and eat black pork. There's also an elephant show and a sex theme park (different places).

Getting there: Korea has lots of budget airlines now. Two that always seem to have great deals are Jin Air and Eastar Jet.

More info: www.jeju.go.kr

Jin Air
www.jinair.com

Eastar Jet
www.eastarjet.com

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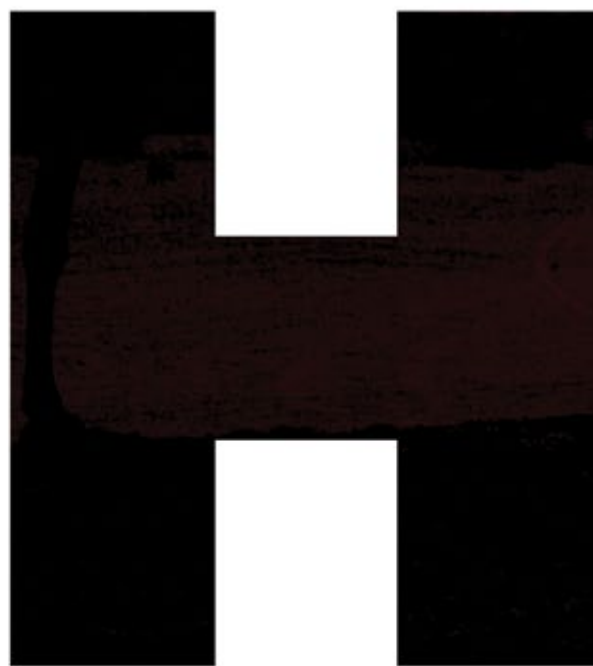
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ABU DHABI ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET

Story and Photos by **Colin Roohan**



● **ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates** – The name of this city conjures images of rich oil tycoons speeding in Ferraris, skyscrapers grasping at the clouds, and all things cosmopolitan. Yet despite appearances, the capital of the United Arab Emirates is trying to balance a culturally rich past with an economically rich present.

I visited Abu Dhabi to discover what the city has to offer. It was my first trip to the Middle East, and I was surprised by what I found.



PRIOR TO DR. MULLER TRIMMING ONE FALCON'S BEAK AND TALONS, WE WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE TURNS HOLDING THE FALCONS. EVEN THROUGH THE THICK LEATHER MITT I COULD FEEL THE STRENGTH OF THE FALCON'S GRIP.

Abu Dhabi's early wealth came from pearls, but in 1958, oil was discovered. Along with the other emirates, Abu Dhabi was about to experience more development in 70 years than it had seen in recorded history.

Legend has it that the city's name, which translates to "Father of the Gazelle" in Arabic, received its name when a nomadic tribe in dire need of fresh water spotted a young gazelle which appeared healthy. The tribe followed the gazelle and it eventually led them to fresh water. It was in this area that Abu Dhabi was founded.

What started as a fort and some ramshackle huts has transformed into a bustling metropolis of steel and glass. It's now the government that is the proverbial "young gazelle," leading its people towards a promising future.

While Dubai prefers over-the-top glitz and blatant flaunting of wealth, Abu Dhabi prefers to keep its money in its pockets. With declining oil reserves becoming a growing concern, the city has cut its oil exports. But Abu Dhabi is making sound investments in other industries to help secure a prosperous future.

Manufacturing, international trade and construction have drastically increased, but tourism is where Abu Dhabi is making its most important strides. As a travel destination, Abu Dhabi is alluring, combining new attractions with some of the peninsula's rich traditions.

Much of Abu Dhabi's past is rooted in a Bedouin lifestyle — desert nomads navigating with the help of the constellations, robes flowing, perched atop a humped beast with a bird perched atop them. And though times have changed, the nation's ties to the desert are still strong.

Camel trekking is popular — albeit now more a novelty than a necessity. Visitors can choose their trek length and if motion sickness is an

issue, a shorter ride can be arranged. Treks can easily be organized through most hotels and are often offered as part of packages. Comprehensive tour bundles include sandboarding, henna painting, falconry displays, a barbecue dinner and shisha smoking.

A number of the treks are planned to coincide with the sunrise or sunset, so bring a camera. As far as shooting in the desert, you needn't worry about damage to your camera as long as you avoid changing lenses and use a basic UV filter. A sling-style camera bag may be more convenient than a backpack model, and don't be afraid to ask your guide to stop for photos — they appreciate the beauty as much as you do.

Falconry is an activity that has been practiced for centuries in the U.A.E. Traditionally, the sport was used as a means of obtaining food, but today's domesticated falcons do not get to hunt; the sport has been made illegal by the government because of dwindling prey for the birds (thus traveling to other Middle Eastern countries to hunt is common).

Abu Dhabi hosts one of the world's largest medical facilities for birds of prey. Since the chance to explore a falcon hospital is such a rare excursion, I highly recommend spending a half-day with the falcons, partaking in some hands-on activities. The tour consists of a brief history in falconry, along with some biological background on the birds. Our entire tour group (myself included) was surprised to learn that falcons have to obtain passports in order to travel.

After arriving at the hospital, Dr. Margit Gabriele Muller, the head doctor and program director, led us into a sterile room. The room had wide, wooden racks on both sides with nearly 40 different falcons all perched silently, wearing leather-plumed head covers. Before Dr. Muller began trimming one falcon's beak and talons, we were allowed to take turns holding the birds. Even through the thick leather mitt I could feel the



**DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK
YOUR GUIDE TO STOP FOR
PHOTOS; THEY APPRECIATE
THE BEAUTY AS MUCH AS
YOU DO.**



strength of the falcon's grip. Next was feeding time: We watched a falcon devour a quail carcass, bones and all, in under a minute.

In addition to a connection with nature, the U.A.E. has a strong connection to religion. A visit to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque should not be missed. I was able to visit the mosque in the late afternoon when the setting sun illuminated the mosque's marble façade, creating a scene of surreal iridescence.

The muezzin's call to prayer filled the air, adding to the enchantment. With architecture and awe-striking beauty that rivals the Taj Mahal, the grand mosque is one of the world's largest, capable of accommodating over 40,000 worshippers. The mosque, which opened in 2007, held its first official ceremony to commemorate the death of Sheikh Zayed, the founder of the nation (his tomb is located on-site). The extravagant design required craftsmen from several different nations to travel here and erect the mosque's 80 domes and 1,000 columns, not to mention the world's largest hand-woven carpet (5,627 square meters). Islam is the official religion of the U.A.E., but the constitution is tolerant of other religions — a stark contrast to other nations in the region.

Intertwined with these cultural attractions, visitors will also find some modern Emirati flare. At the Emirates Palace Hotel, "a beyond five-star resort," you can purchase gold from a vending machine, then wear said gold to the hotel's own private beach where the sand was imported from Algeria because, apparently, it is the finest in the world.

Ferrari World, the world's largest indoor theme park, houses the world's fastest roller coaster; you are turbo-launched to speeds of 240 kilometers per hour in less than five seconds. It is uncomfortably fast and exhilarating; every carful that pulled back into the terminal was hooting and hollering, then stumbling out of the exit in a G-force-induced high.

Continuing on the topic of speed, Abu Dhabi's Marina Circuit should also be mentioned. Built on the man-made Yas Island, this racetrack is the host of the annual Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which has been acclaimed for several years. In addition to the Grand Prix, the venues here host everything from bicycle races to music festivals.

Over the past decade, one activity that has become increasingly popular in the Middle East is golf. Golf in Abu Dhabi, an association that hopes to popularize the sport in the region, has gone to great lengths to attract fellow golf enthusiasts from around the globe.

And regardless of whether golfers are putting alongside the turquoise Arabian Gulf waters or teeing off at night to beat the intense summer heat, the association is doing a good job of creating unique golfing experiences. They've helped make the area's largest tournament, the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, a success.

Held at The Abu Dhabi Golf Club, this tournament brings in players of the highest caliber such as Matteo Manassero, Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods and Justin Rose. After receiving outstanding acclaim in 2012, it was officially ranked the strongest field to compete in a Middle Eastern tournament, in addition to having the highest record for attendance in the books with over 80,000.

Abu Dhabi is a good place to start your travels in the Middle East. The city is safe and women are respected. I will admit that I was a little intimidated by the thought of Middle Eastern travel, but after my visit I see that it is a fascinating region that deserves more positive attention.

I enjoyed my time in Abu Dhabi and like to think of this Emirate, and the U.A.E., as a teenager: It has loads of potential and is excited about its future ventures. Only time will tell whether or not the choices made now will lead to a sustainable, successful economic future. **GROOVE**



ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?

WEEZER AGREES TO GROOVE'S 'DOUBLE-DARE' TO TAKE UP 'GANGNAM STYLE' AT JISAN WORLD ROCK FESTIVAL — WILL THEY DO IT?

Story by **Britney Dennison** / Photos courtesy **Jisan World Rock Festival**



This year introduces a whole new rock festival. Jisan Forest Resort and KBS Media have teamed up to present the first Jisan World Rock Festival this summer, loaded with international and Korean talent: The lineup includes veterans Placebo, Weezer and Jamiroquai, all of whom gained international stardom in the '90s. Also present are popular Korean rock bands Crying Nut, No Brain and Lazybone.

This three-day festival — to take place Aug. 2-4 at Jisan Forest

Resort near Icheon, Gyeonggi Province — will be packed with rock bands from around the world, from alternative rock crusaders to locally revered funk rockers.

Groove Korea caught up with Weezer for a brief Q&A, where the Angeleno rockers shared some tidbits about what music does for them and what fans can expect at their next visit to the Korean Peninsula.

WEEZER

Since forming in 1992 and pumping out nine studio albums, Weezer has performed in front of millions of fans all over the world, making countless tour memories while doing it.

In the interview, they noted one of their most memorable experiences while on tour — “floating down a river in Zion National Park with Gwen Stefani, playing with the Flaming Lips and Lush.”

In 2009, the last time they were in Korea, Weezer covered “Seven Nation Army,” but the band wouldn’t hint what they’d perform this time around. The only clue came after we jokingly “double-dared” them

to perform Psy’s “Gangnam Style.” “I think that’s a really great idea that we’re going to modify with the song, ‘Master of Puppets,’ they suggested.

If 2013 Weezer could tell 1992 Weezer one thing, they say it would be: “Shut up and play.”

What does Weezer get out of music? “A secret knowledge.”

MANCEAU

Another band set to take the stage at Jisan World Rock Festival is French pop group Manceau. While the band has only been around since 2010, they’ve already gained a growing global following. In an interview with Groove Korea, the members talked about how their music has evolved in their short history.

Their debut album “On a Mellow Day” can be described as folk pop, but their most recent work, “Life Traffic Jam,” is more electro-pop. “The record has been produced in a different way because we didn’t want to do it on our own. We wanted to feel the danger at the edge of the abyss,” they said.

“We try to dress our songs with different clothes and we wanted ‘Life Traffic Jam’ to be produced as an electro-pop album. We were curious to know how it was going to sound mixing old synthesizers and machines with acoustic guitars. Hot and cold: That’s what we wanted to explore, and that’s also what we did writing the lyrics.”

Manceau embarked on their first Asia tour last year, stopping in China and Japan. Jisan World Rock Festival will be their first visit to Korea.





'THAT'S
INCREDIBLE
FOR US.WE NEVER
THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE ONE DAY POSSIBLE TO PLAY
OUR MUSIC ON THE OTHER SIDE OF
THE WORLD.'

— Manceau

AND MORE

If your tastes transcend the rock genre, there will be multiple stages and artists to pump out hip-hop and electronic beats. Using the forest as a backdrop, organizers hope to create a one-of-a-kind rock 'n' roll experience for festival-goers.

For electronic lovers the World Ska Stage will feature Dr. Ring Ding from Germany and Kingston Rudieska from Korea.

More than 60 bands have been confirmed in the first four lineups, including Jamiroquai, Placebo, Deerhoof, Switchfoot and The Dandy Warhols. A fifth lineup will be revealed shortly.

Complete with camping and food areas, organizers at Jisan Forest Resort have said that convenience is the key to a successful festival.

There are still a few rules to keep in mind: Stay hydrated, help others, and if you find yourself lost in the throngs, "Slam-zone, mosh-pit, whatever you call it ... No throwing objects, (and) no punching in the face."

Manceau, meanwhile, is looking forward to their first stop in Korea. "That's incredible for us," they said. "We never thought it would be one day possible to play our music on the other side of the world.

"We love spending time together on the road because we have the same sense of humor and we laugh a lot. For us, music is also a way to meet different people. It might sound cliché, but that's true. We met amazing and funny people in the venues we played. We try to enjoy these moments as much as we can."

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To order tickets: www.jisanworldrockfestival.com/ticket/foreignersbooking
Tickets can be picked up at the ticket booth at the festival. Make sure to bring your ID and confirmation email.

Website: www.jisanworldrockfestival.com

There are a number of routes to Jisan Rock Festival. Check the website for details: www.jisanworldrockfestival.com/location

SLOW DRESS

Travels, strange happenings, conversations and death

Column by **Sophie Boladeras**
Photos by **Britney Dennison**
and **Sarah Zachor**

SLOW DRESS IS:

Andrew Alter (Texas)

Drums/percussion

Blair Lee (Ontario)

Guitar

Lee Mordell (Pennsylvania)

Bass

Lauren E. Walker (Arkansas)

Vocals

● Down a seedy lane lit by blue neon, down a set of stairs, after downing a few screwdrivers, three bands later and, finally, at around midnight in Itaewon, I'm getting down to Slow Dress.

This band is comprised of four musicians who compose original songs and perform their unique sounds at venues across Korea. Their indie fusion is progressive, upbeat and melodic. With their memorable lyrics, Slow Dress is much more than an alluringly named band. Hearing vocalist Lauren Walker sing tales of getting into trouble with Russians on a train in Thailand and of dates obsessed with a certain kind of cake is refreshing — even more so than the slew of screwdrivers I've consumed.

Slow Dress will play on July 12 at Strange Fruit

in Hongdae.

Groove Korea: Are there any recurring themes in your lyrics?

Lauren Walker: Travels, strange happenings, conversations and death. Dresses, cousins and family members in general.

How did the name Slow Dress come about?

Lee Mordell: There was a debate going on between choosing Cat Navy or Skull Death. While I pushed hard for Cat Navy, we ended up choosing Slow Dress because it's the name of one of our slower songs. It's an interesting image as well.

What do you think of the expat music scene in Seoul?

Andrew Alter: It'd be nice to see more freaks getting under people's skin and clearing out some rooms, but it seems generally vibrant and you feel a decent sense of community.

Lee: There's a lot of great music coming out recently because more expats are staying longer and are more invested in their music. I'd like to see more collaboration between the expat scene and the Korean scene, which are both highly developed. It's nice to see labels such as Loose Union attempting to bridge the gap with shows featuring acts from both scenes.

Blair Lee: In terms of the scene itself, I think it's getting stronger and more diverse. There's more



solidarity developing too; bands are helping promote and support each other. I think I've been fortunate here in that everyone I met through music has been really, really positive and supportive.

Lauren: I think it's cool that there's a lot of openness and opportunity for everyone. You can pretty much do whatever the hell you want if you believe in it and don't expect miraculous outcomes.

So which expat bands are you into?

Lauren: G.T. Arpe (facebook.com/GTArpe) is my favorite expat band. He is kooky, unbelievably talented, funny and unswervingly original.

Blair: New Blue Death (facebook.com/newbluedeath) is a relatively new band, but they sound like they've been around for ages. All the members are top-notch musicians, and they really look and sound professional.

Used Cassettes (facebook.com/usedcassettesseoul) is another great band. Once I was sitting at a club before our set, waiting for sound check, and the owner was playing the Used Cassettes album and I thought it was The National. Not that that's necessarily good or bad. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that they sounded like a band that you could imagine hearing on the radio back home.

Sssighborgggg is a band I think most expats are familiar with. I always get a kick out of seeing them live. It's all instrumental, so there's this sense of disconnection with the audience which I find strangely enjoyable.

G.T. Arpe is this one-man band from Daejeon. He comes on stage wearing mismatched sneakers and plays great lo-fi, experimental rock.

I also really enjoy listening to Table People — I thought their EP was really well done. They've got some great melodies and hooks.

Tormenta de Maembong is a newish band that I'm really getting into.

They're a Scottish power trio that really rock.

Yuppie Killers (facebook.com/YuppieKillers) is this hardcore punk band that plays 30-second songs. I'm not usually into this kind of music, but I really like it. What makes them interesting for me is that I can't tell if they're being ironic.

The Killer Drones (facebook.com/TheKillerDrones) are always great to see live as well. They play bluesy rock in a good way.

What venues do you enjoy playing at and why?

Andrew: I like all of the venues. But Yogiga Expression Gallery are our close friends, so playing there is always great, plus their early-'90s Flaming Lips-esque drum kit is my favorite.

Blair: I enjoy Moon Night in Itaewon. They don't have the best equipment, but I like the layout of the club. I think they're better known for their drag parties than for live music. The staff is great and Mark, the manager, is a wonderful person.

What are your future plans?

Blair: I'd like to work on a second record and go from there.

Lauren: Go on tour in Japan!

Andrew: As far as Slow Dress goes, I'd enjoy playing around different parts of Korea, as well as (in) our various Asian neighborhoods. I'd also love to be able to hold a piece of vinyl in my hands that I helped create. On an individual level, as soon as I return home I'm finding the largest tub of guacamole I can find, and then bathing in it.

How can our readers get hold of some of your music?

We're currently on Facebook and YouTube. By the time this prints, we will hopefully have some sort of proper recording in the pipeline, if not outright released. There will definitely be a launch party for our record, so stay tuned. **GROOVE**



GETTING TO STRANGE

FRUIT: Go to Hongik University Station, line 2, exit 8, and take a sharp right. Turn left at Café Egro. Turn right at Family Mart. Strange Fruit is four doors down.

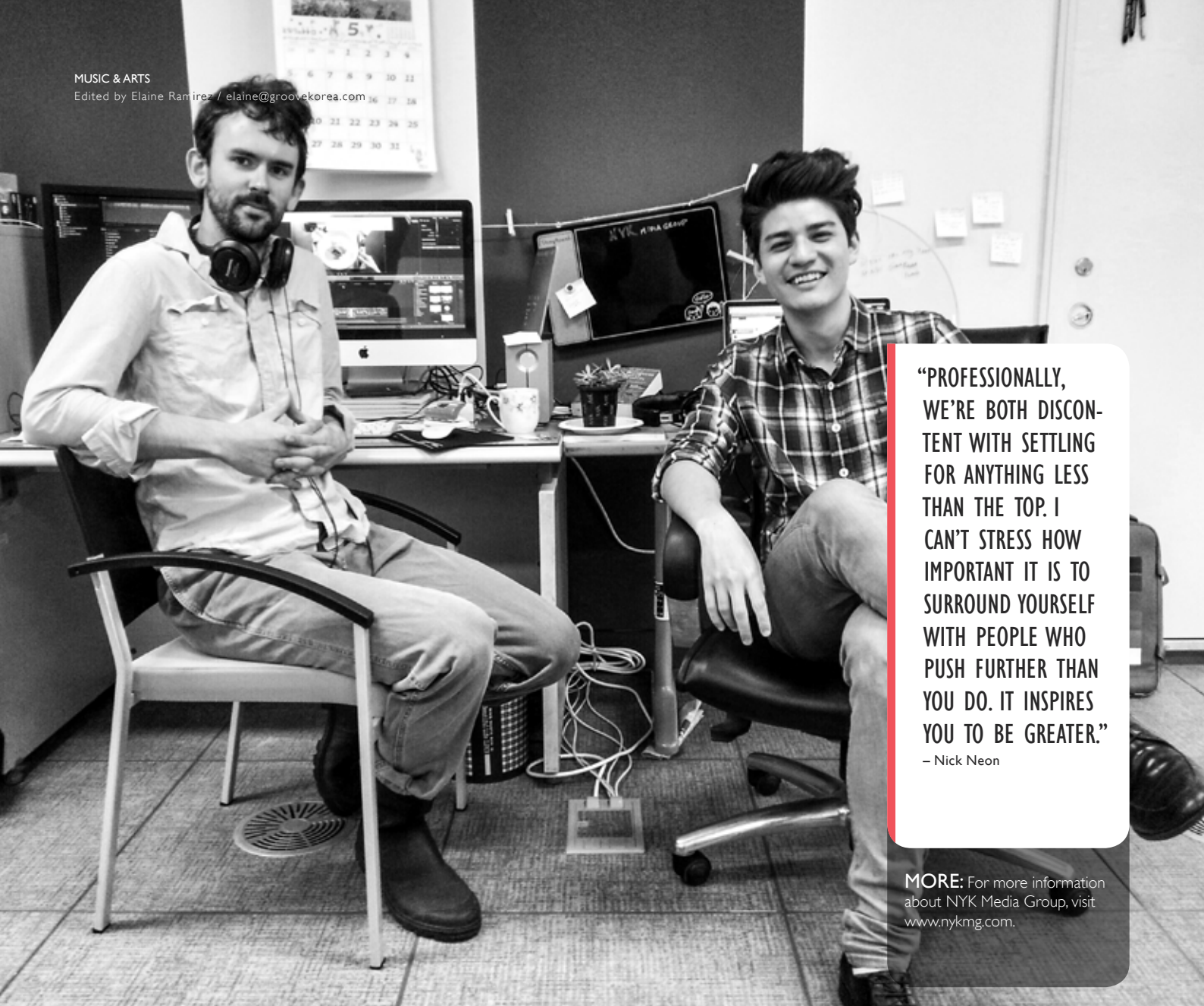
GETTING TO YOGIGA EXPRESSION GALLERY:

Go to Hapjeong Station, exit 5. The address is Mapo-gu, Hapjeong-dong 412-181.

**GETTING TO MOON
NIGHT BAR :** Go to Itaewon Station, line 6, exit 3. The address is Yongsan-gu, Itaewon-dong 132-3.

MORE INFO: Check Slow Dress' Facebook page for future events:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Slow-Dress-느린-치마/103994783104504>





“PROFESSIONALLY, WE’RE BOTH DISCONTENT WITH SETTLING FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN THE TOP. I CAN’T STRESS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO PUSH FURTHER THAN YOU DO. IT INSPIRES YOU TO BE GREATER.”

— Nick Neon

MORE: For more information about NYK Media Group, visit www.nykmg.com.

ARTIST’S JOURNEY

Interview with John Weeke and Nick Neon, creators of NYK Media Group

Interview by **Alison Hjelseth**
Photos courtesy **NYK Media**

ABOUT THIS COLUMN

Interviews for this column are by Wilfred Lee or Alison Hjelseth, and transcribed and written by Alison Hjelseth. Artist’s Journey brings you daily doses of inspiration, including weekly podcasts featuring artists from around the globe. Learn more at facebook.com/myartistsjourney or www.artistsjourney.org. — Ed.

● John Weeke and Nick Neon, two talented NYC film school grads who met in Seoul, recently launched NYK Media Group to help bridge the advertising gap between Korean companies and their American audience. Artist’s Journey’s Alison Hjelseth spoke with the entrepreneurs to find out what inspires them, and how they maintain the balance between art and business.

Artist’s Journey: What made you decide that this was someone who you could work with long-term in order to found NYK?

Nick Neon: I trust John so much. When I first met

him, I honestly didn’t think we had much in common and I never suspected we would become partners today. But the one thing that has been consistent from the start was that I trust him. And I respect him. It doesn’t hurt that we both like to blow shit up and ask questions later.

John Weeke: We’re an excellent match, astrologically speaking.

Two people working so closely together surely has a big impact on each other. How would you say your partner has influenced you, professionally and artistically?

Nick: I would consider John to be a realist and I’m

an idealist. I think there is a perfect balance between us where we complement each other in a very practical way. Professionally, we're both discontent with settling for anything less than the top. I can't stress how important it is to surround yourself with people who push further than you do. It inspires you to be greater. Artistically, John is very honest, so it helps to carve away and tighten the craft of creating. There is a strong process of refinement that happens between us.

John: Nick's brain leans to the right, emphasizing aesthetics and style. I tend to focus more on structure and content. We've got a good synergy there. As for professional stuff, we went to film school so we don't have any idea how to run a business. You have to deal with people in different ways than you do on set. He's shown me that sometimes you've got to be the nice guy. I've shown him that sometimes you don't.

What sorts of challenges have you faced while starting your business in Korea?

John: It's been overwhelmingly simple, actually. The Seoul Global Center has really helped us get going.

Nick: Foremost, language and a lack of real business experience prior to founding NYK. We have been so fortunate to receive help through Seoul City in the form of a sponsored office space for six months, along with mentorship from several great business owners who live and operate within Korea. Another huge challenge has been simply convincing these Korean companies that there is a real need for what NYK has to offer.

Are there any projects you're working on right now that you can tell us about?

John: Right now we're working on a series of restaurant commercials and a viral YouTube video for the JW Marriott Hotel. If they're not done by the time anybody reads this, then we're in trouble.

Nick: We're also in talks with the International Vaccine Institute to create monthly video content of all their projects both in Seoul and overseas. We are also looking into working with Korea's medical and tourism sectors.

How do you find that balance between making things that inspire you personally and push you and your brand professionally?

Nick: Personally, I have always been relatively flexible. We try to instill as much creativity into the video work we do for NYK. Sometimes it's harmonious. Sometimes, the client wants something strictly informational. I think ultimately, video work is a fine marriage of art and tech. I like to think we are honing our technical craft with every video. This can then be applied to personal projects that may not be financially supported but require endless tech knowhow. The end goal, I suppose, for me, would be to eventually have a company that supports both.

John: To think that somebody's going to see your movie at a film festival and give you six or seven or eight or nine digits to make something that you love is a fantasy. But with NYK, we've realized that making a commercial or a comedy or corporate video can involve just as much imagination and excitement as anything you dream of on your own. Sometimes more, since there are so many more constraints to work with.

What do you see in the future for NYK?

John: We'll see what happens. If the past six months have told us anything, it's that Korea needs Western-style video and that we can fill that need. Ultimately, we see NYK as a full-service advertising agency that helps with the entire process, from branding to marketing. But that's a ways off. For now, we'll be happy if we can pay the rent.

Nick: I'd be content with being able to buy a new pair of socks. It ain't easy starting an empire from the ground up. **GROOVE**

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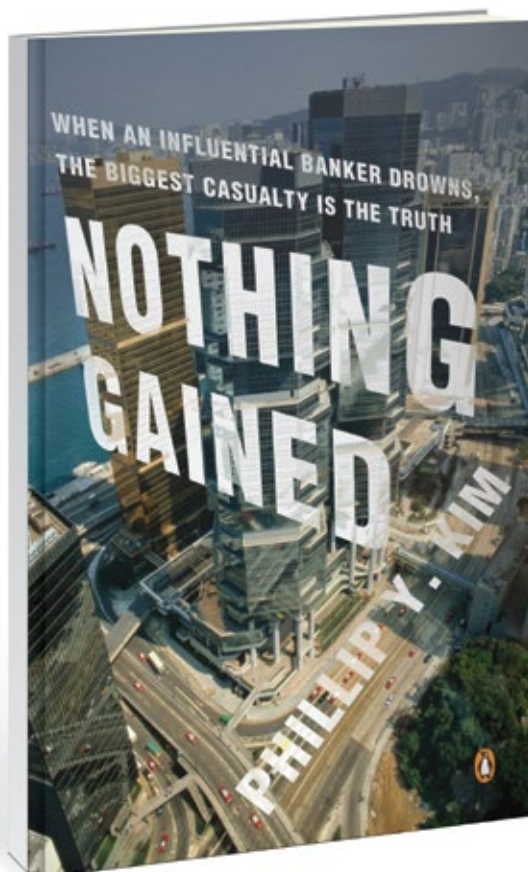
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CORRUPTION, SCANDAL AND DECEIT

Phillip Y. Kim's Novel unravels the complicated and secretive world of Asia's finance industry

Review by **Britney Dennison**



NOTHING GAINED

By Phillip Y. Kim

300 pages

Penguin

Available at What The Book in Itaewon

HAVE YOU EVER IN
YOUR LIFE BEEN COM-
pletely BOWLED
OVER BY SOMEONE?

● Phillip Y. Kim's new thriller "Nothing Gained" is set in glamorous post-millennial Hong Kong. His debut novel unravels the complicated and secretive world of Asia's finance industry.

Having worked in finance for over 25 years, Kim spent most of his career laboring in Asia for corporate giants Lehman Brothers and Morgan Stanley. "Nothing Gained" was inspired by Kim's own experiences in the industry, with his extensive knowledge of finance and Asian business culture laying the foundation for the novel's story arc.

The story is set in 2010, unfolding during the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and showcasing the demise of global investment banks Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and The Bear Stearns Companies, Inc. This timeline gives an excellent portrait of the concern, skepticism and public scrutiny that has followed wealthy bankers and "fat cat" CEOs since that fallout.

"Nothing Gained" opens with the mysterious death of a prominent investment banker, Jason Donahue. The star of his firm, Barker Reed, his sudden and untimely death exposes some "very inconvenient truths" for those closest to him.

"Have you ever in your life been completely bowled over by someone?" This is how Jason's wife, Cheryl Donahue, feels after she suddenly finds herself immersed in the seedy underworld of the Asian business market. As everyone around her attempts to "come to grips with the enigma of Jason Donahue," Cheryl is forced to dive into the depths of her husband's double life to protect herself and her family.

In "Nothing Gained," high-stakes deals make investment banking look more like a sport than a career. While the topic is neither new nor groundbreaking, what makes Kim's novel unique is the focus on China, particularly Macau and Hong Kong. Kim's own background reveals itself in the subtle details that reflect his insider knowledge.

He also highlights essential Asian customs, including the importance of reputation and food, adding a layer of nuance and authenticity with each detail. Even while doing this, he still manages to keep his language and style accessible, so you don't need a degree in economics to understand the references or appreciate the thrill. **GROOVE**

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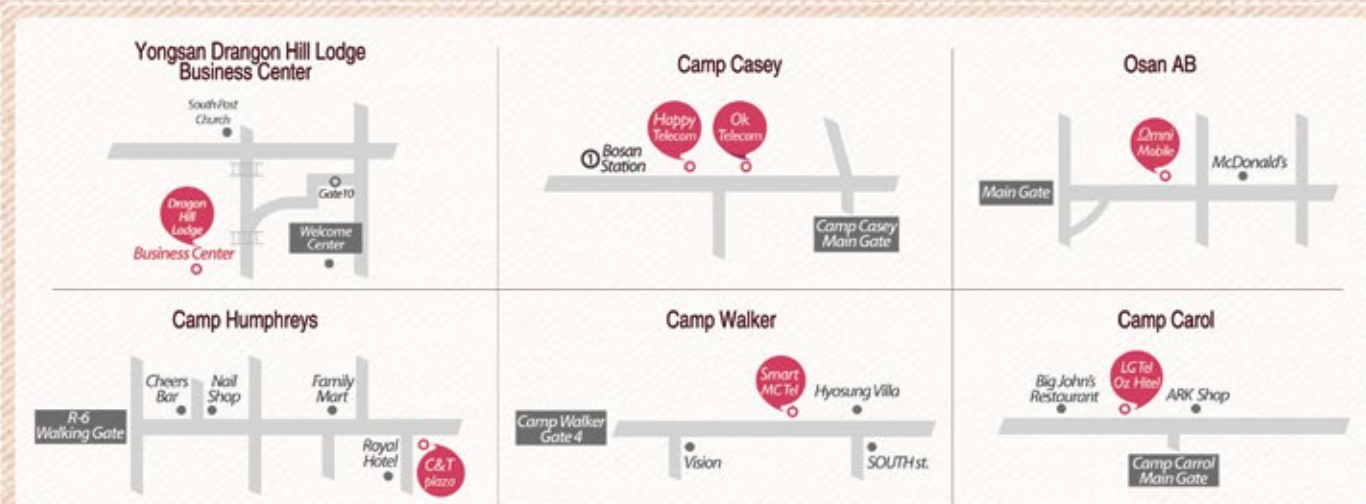
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AT THE BOX OFFICE THE BIG SCREEN

By Dean Crawford

The Wolverine

Directed by **James Mangold**

July
25 Action /
Adventure



● Every time I see Hugh Jackman, I can't help but spare a thought for poor, old Dougray Scott. "Dougray who?" I hear you ask. Exactly.

Scott was originally scheduled to play Wolverine in the first "X-Men" movie back in 2000. Not in a "he was in the running" way, but the gig was his. Scheduling conflicts led to him having to choose between playing dress-up in "X-Men" or playing the main villain in "Mission: Impossible 2." He chose "M:I-2" and the rest is history.

Hugh Jackman has gone on to star in numerous films, been nominated for an Oscar and made a ton of cash playing Wolverine. (Okay, sorry nerds. It's four if you count "X-Men: First Class.") Jackman is returning to the character in the mutant's second stand-alone film, "The Wolverine," directed by James Mangold.

In an effort to distance themselves from the critical and commercial failure of "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" (2009), the film is set after the events in "X3: The Last Stand" (2006) and Logan has traveled to Japan. Darren Aronofsky

had been attached to direct — a possibility that had me very excited. "Black Swan" (2010), "The Wrestler" (2008) and "Requiem for a Dream" (2000) are some of my favorite films, so I would have loved to see what his take on the superhero genre would have been. Family reasons were cited for his decision to leave the project, and Mangold, the director of "3:10 to Yuma" (2007), was brought on board.

A lot of people blame studio interference for the lack of vision and quality in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," and I have no doubt this was a factor.

The production was rife with reports that the suits on set were continually disagreeing with most of the decisions made by the director. At the same time, however, I think the critical failure could also have stemmed from the fact that Wolverine, without the other X-Men, is just a little boring.

I'm going to see the film, of course, but to me, it's simply a teaser until "X-Men: Days of Future Past" arrives next summer.

GROOVE

Pacific Rim

Directed by **Guillermo del Toro**

July
Action/Adventure/
Sci-Fi



● It appears as if July is going to be a slow movie month because, after "The Wolverine," the only other "big" nationwide releases are "Red 2" and "Pacific Rim."

It crossed my mind to write about "Red 2," as I find that series fascinating. Not because I thought the 2010 original was a particularly good or bad film, as it was a tongue-in-cheek, almost postmodern look at aging superstars shooting guns. That all sounds decent enough, but what surprises me, however, is how much money the film made. So much money that work has already begun on the third installment of the "Red" series before "Red 2" has even been released.

As a result, I'm left with a choice between "Old People Shooting Guns" Part 2 and Transformers vs. Godzilla. Bruce Willis robbed me of 8,000 won with "Die Hard 5," so "Pacific Rim" it is.

In the movie, a portal to another world has been discovered beneath the sea. Godzilla-sized monsters pour out with the intention of taking over Earth, but as the trailer states, "they never

considered our ability to stand." And the way that humanity stands is to create giant, human-controlled robots to fight the alien creatures in a battle for the planet. The film stars Idris Elba of "The Wire," fellow Brit Charlie Hunnam, Charlie Day of the American sitcom "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," and Hellboy himself, Ron Perlman.

I hate the fact I'm being so negative this month, but I'm really not excited by "Pacific Rim" at all. The most recent "Godzilla" film was a total flop, and despite the fact that the monster movie "Cloverfield" (2008) made a ton of cash, I found it to be a dull affair. But who am I to question director Guillermo del Toro? "Pan's Labyrinth" (2006) is a fantastic film and I enjoyed the "Hellboy" movies thoroughly.

So, in a bid to finish this page on a positive note, I'll leave the final word to YouTube user "psycho-reactive," who I think may very well sum up a lot of people's thoughts: "Giant robots vs. giant monsters. Shut up and take my money."

GROOVE

KOREAN DVD CORNER

THE SMALL SCREEN

By Dean Crawford

A Company Man (회사원)

Directed by Lim Sang-yeon



[R Action/Thriller
96 minutes]

● The protagonist, Hyeong-do, works for an organization simply known as “the company,” which is actually a group of hit men for hire. With his cool exterior, good manners and no nonsense approach to his work, Hyeong-do is quickly rising through the ranks and has the respect of the boss.

The first job we see him take part in is to eliminate a witness who is due to testify in court. He oversees the project using a young “temp,” Ra-hoon. They’re called temps for a reason, as Hyeong-do kills Ra-hoon as soon as the job is complete. Feeling sorry for the youngster, Hyeong-do agrees to carry out a final request for Ra-hoon, which is to pass on his life savings to his mother; a single parent and, incidentally, a former pop star who Hyeong-do used to idolize.

During his meeting with Ra-hoon’s mother, Hyeong-do experiences a sense of guilt and nostalgia. These feelings, coupled with a new task of taking out one of the company’s longest-serving employees, a man who has gone off the rails

due to the death of his son, leads him to question his lifestyle and his commitment to the company. Hyeong-do continues to rise through the ranks, but after spending more time with Ra-hoon’s family, decides to quit. This doesn’t sit well with the company bosses. Hyeong-do doesn’t want to fight, but is forced to defend himself, which leads to a violent and climactic finale.

The pace doesn’t let up and strikes a balance between character development and action.

That being said, some of the coincidences feel a little forced. I understand that all films have necessary plot devices to move the narrative forward, but the setups did feel a little contrived at times. The film’s final shoot-out also requires a willing suspension of disbelief, but these little nitpicks don’t take away from the enjoyment of the film.

The plot isn’t original, but putting the coincidences and realism to one side, the film is a solid thriller and an excellent directorial debut.

GROOVE

Perfect Number (용의자X)

Directed by Bang Eun-jin



[PG-15 Mystery/Romance
107 minutes]

● A perfect number is an integer greater than zero, a whole number, and when you add up the factors less than that number, you get the same number. Luckily for me, Bang Eun-jin’s movie, “Perfect Number,” based on Keigo Higashino’s novel “The Devotion of Suspect X,” is slightly less confusing and much more interesting.

Seok-go is a brilliant mathematician. He is also a loner, having no one and nothing in his life except his job as a math teacher and his quest to find a new perfect number. His life is changed when he falls for his new neighbor, Hwa-seon, who has moved in next door with her niece, Yun-ah. Hwa-seon’s ex-husband tracks them down and, in an act of self-defense, Hwa-seon kills him with the help of Yun-ah. Seok-go uses his brilliance to help Hwa-seon create the perfect alibi, so that there is no way she can be arrested.

Unfortunately for them, a dogged detective is on the case and his instincts are telling him that Hwa-seon is indeed the killer. He just needs the

proof. “Perfect Number” is a solid thriller that keeps its viewers guessing to the final scene.

In most thrillers, there’s a motive and the cops try to gather clues and evidence to build a case. The interesting thing here is that, in this instance, “Perfect Number” is the opposite, as the clues are staring the police right in the face. The authorities, as well as the audience, have to piece these clues together to work out what really happened.

The Japanese novel focused on the relationship between a physics genius detective and the math genius mastermind behind the alibi, but the Korean incarnation delves into the romantic relationship between Seok-go and Hwa-seon, which I felt slowed the film down. I found it to be a distraction every time the mumbling Seok-go went puppy-eyed over Hwa-seon.

However, “Perfect Number” is still an interesting, engaging and not to mention a well-made twist on the crime genre that will leave its viewers satisfied.

GROOVE

Searching for Roots and identity

An adoptee shares
her experiences on
the stage

Story by **Jenny Na**
Photos courtesy of **Sun Mee Chomet**



● Sun Mee Chomet had a recurring dream when she was young. In it, she was making a charcoal drawing of her mother. But like many other adoptees who grow up away from their birth families, she wasn't able to make the face whole. "I would wake up and I couldn't see what the face looked like," she says.

Years later, she took a journey that would eventually help her fill in the blanks, which culminated in her reuniting with her birth mother in 2009.

She puts those experiences on stage in a one-woman show, "How to Be a Korean Woman," which has gained widespread acclaim in her current home of Minneapolis and regional theaters across the U.S. She will present the piece at the end of the month as part of a conference that will bring hundreds of adoptees to Seoul.

More than 200,000 Korean-born adoptees have already been sent to more than a dozen Western countries as part of Korea's ongoing intercountry adoption program that began at the end of the Korean War. Like them, Chomet grew up having no connection to her birth family, and she had long wondered about what she had lost.

"For all adoptees, I think talking about what we wonder about, about birth families, or what happens after reunion or after searching or after rejection, it kind of goes to the core of who we are, and it becomes very raw," she says.

Her show tells the story of her search, her reunion with her mother, aunts and grandmother, and the complexities of what happens afterward. She also explores the secrecy surrounding her adoption, secrets she still has to keep.

"The only people that know about me are the people that were there when I was born. My aunts, they're all married to men who don't know about me. My mother's married, and she has two sons

who don't know about me," she says. There are no pictures of Chomet in her mother's house, a place she's never been, and she guesses that if there were pictures of her they were destroyed. "In my fantasy of meeting my birth family, that was not part of it."

In a video clip from the show, she says, "I try to explain this feeling, this hollowness of all of this not knowing — of the what-ifs and the whys and the secrecy — and living make-believe lives, but I cannot speak."

For Chomet, choosing to put her experiences onstage was not something she intended to do. It took risk.

"I really wanted to write about it, but I didn't know if it would turn into a play that would actually be articulate," she says. "I just had a means of reliving the moments, in order for them not to haunt me as much."

Her show is titled "How to Be a Korean Woman," which is a reflection of her search to redefine for herself what it meant to be a Korean woman. In the piece, she goes from being the narrator to playing social workers she's encountered to playing her birth mother, her grandmother and her aunts.

Chomet grew up in Detroit in a "super liberal" family with a Jewish father and a Protestant mother who took her to rallies, taught her about feminism from a very young age and "didn't really encourage me to wear makeup or even bras," but did encourage her to go out and play football with her brothers. All of that, however, went against who she was. And then when she reunited with her birth family, she found herself trying to become the person they wanted her to be or who they imagined she was.

"Suddenly they're teaching me how to put make-

'SO I FEEL LIKE I WROTE THIS FOR MYSELF, BUT I ALSO WROTE THIS FOR US, AS ADOPTÉES, SO OTHER ADOPTÉES WOULDN'T FEEL ALONE IN THEIR SEARCH. AND THE SHOW DOESN'T NECESSARILY PROVIDE ANY ANSWERS – IT JUST ALLOWS THE QUESTIONS THAT WE ALL HAVE TO BE SHARED.'

— Sun Mee Chomet

up on and they're going shopping and buying me clothes and honestly, I loved it, because I am not a tomboy like my adoptive mother. I'm very feminine and I always had to reject that growing up because it wasn't encouraged in my family," she says. "I felt myself trying so hard to become this Korean woman and I realized that what they were doing was trying to make me look like I'd never been given up for adoption. Writing the show was about walking away from everything and redefining what it meant to be a Korean woman for myself."

A filmmaker will document her Korea performances and interview adoptees about how it resonates with them. One of the questions they'll explore is how reunion shifts an adoptee's relationship with her adoptive family. It will also explore the idea of the third family that some adoptees acquire in the process of trying to understand and articulate experiences that are unique to their community and for which they often have no role models.

Although she wrote the piece for herself, she says she also wrote it for the adoptees she knows in Minnesota, home to the largest population of adoptees in the United States.

"I wanted to write this because I would be out with my friends, adoptees, and they're all talking about what their experience was and how they didn't know what to do now, and they haven't talked to their birth families in years," she says.

"For the majority of people that I've talked to that have reunited, it is a rollercoaster of emotions, a rollercoaster of expectations. So I feel like I wrote this for myself, but I also wrote this for us, as adoptees, so other adoptees wouldn't feel alone in their search. And the show doesn't necessarily provide any answers – it just allows the questions that we all have to be shared." **GROOVE**

MORE INFO: "How to Be a Korean Woman" will be presented on July 30 at 7 p.m. Location TBA. www.sunmeechomet.com

AFTER PARTY: The after-party will be at Myoung Wol Gwan, Hongik University Station, line 2, exit 9

ADMISSION: 10,000 won to 15,000 won (TBC)



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THE PIANIST FROM PYONGYANG

Concert aims to help stranded defectors

Story by **Britney Dennison**

● Most flee North Korea because of poverty, famine or imprisonment. Kim Cheol-wong fled artistic repression.

Kim was born in North Korea and became a Moscow-educated pianist for Pyongyang's State Symphony Orchestra. But feeling smothered by the restrictions and political lilt of the music he was forced to play, he yearned to explore vibrant genres and romantic ballads. So he defected from the North and made the perilous journey to the South in order to obtain musical freedom.

In an interview with Groove Korea, he explained that he lives for his music and uses it as a tool to change the world for the better.

"By getting across the border to South Korea, not did I gain the freedom to be a pianist, more importantly, I gained the power to change mankind through music," he says. "I think I can be a messenger to people all over the world to share a message of peace."

This month, the North Korean Rescue Fund, a division of the Citizen's Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHHR), is holding a concert featuring a 60-minute performance by Kim.

"How often do you have an opportunity to hear a pianist from North Korea tell you about the music that made him want to leave his country?" asks Lilian Lee, the Program Officer for the Seoul-based NGO.

Since his defection, Kim has performed in South Korea and around the world. This has led to an opportunity to work with the London Philharmonic,

and even a performance at Carnegie Hall.

Kim says there are some things he misses in North Korea. "I still miss things in North Korea because I'll never be able to go back. I miss precious little memories, like high school and junior school. Every memory is so precious."

For Kim, it's all about the music.

"I live for playing my music," he says.

His upcoming concert will be held on July 13 in Haechi Hall at Seoul Global Culture and Tourism Center. Tickets cost 25,000 won and can be purchased in advance.

Groove Korea is sponsoring the event.

Raising awareness

Volunteers at the North Korean Rescue Fund hope the concert will bring them closer to their goal of 13 million won, all of which will go to an emergency fund that will aid North Korean refugees.

According to the Ministry of Unification, the number of North Korean defectors has more than quadrupled in the last decade — jumping from 583 in 2001 to 2,737 in 2011. The Rescue Fund has reported that more than 70 percent of these refugees are women and children.

"Most of the money (raised) will be going to transportation costs and living expenses because they can't come right from China to South Korea," says Christine Pickering, a volunteer with the Rescue Fund.

One significant hurdle for potential defectors is that the Chinese government does not acknowledge North Koreans as refugees.

As a result, defectors who want to reach South Korea must first travel to a transit country that recognizes their refugee status — usually Thailand.

This process is both dangerous and time intensive, costing some \$2,000 per person to make the journey to the South. For this rea-

son, many North Koreans end up living in China illegally. This number is quickly approaching 30,000 people. If caught, they risk being sent back to North Korea where they could face torture, imprisonment or death.

Volunteer Athena Youm says the emergency fund will be reserved for critical cases.

"When they call us, we never know what situation they're in. It could be dire, or it could be an entire family, or it could be a group of youth or children," says Youm. "If we don't have this emergency funding then we won't be able to rescue them quickly, and that could mean lost opportunities to come or a lost life."

Lee says they receive many requests but prioritize women who have been victims of trafficking, and abandoned or orphaned children.

To date, the rescue fund has raised \$5,000 toward their goal.

At the concert, there will also be a raffle and a silent auction; proceeds will go toward NKHR's education programs.

The NKHR, the Rescue Fund and Kim himself are all hoping to bring an increased awareness to the plight of North Korean defectors and the human rights abuses they face.

"This issue is really important because a lot of people, especially the foreigners, they know about the human rights atrocities in North Korea and they support defection and resettlement. The problem is that a lot of people don't seem to realize the dangers that North Koreans face as soon as they escape North Korea's borders," says Youm.

The concert will be a musical retelling of Kim's life. "Every piece he plays has a story behind it," says Lee.

Pickering says the concert will provide a space for dialogue and understanding. After Kim's performance, there will be food and beverages. Attendees will have an opportunity to talk with members of the campaign and learn more about their programs and future goals. **GROOVE**

KEY TERMS

Defector: In North Korea, citizens are not allowed to freely leave the country. A defector is an individual who has fled the country. It's estimated that tens of thousands of people have fled North Korea.

Refugee: A person who escapes or is forced to leave their country to avoid persecution, war, human rights abuses or natural disasters. There are around 30,000 North Korean refugees in China.

Resettlers: North Koreans who come to the South are not considered refugees. They become resettlers, which means they are no longer at risk of being repatriated (forced to return to their home country).

TICKETS: Tickets are 25,000 won. The price includes the performance, a small gift from NKHR, light snacks and beverages.

MORE INFO: For more information, please contact nkhrrescuefund@gmail.com. Citizen's Alliance (NKHR) website: www.nkhumanrights.or.kr

GETTING THERE: The concert will be held in Haechi Hall at Seoul Global Culture and Tourism Center. Go out of Myeongdong Station, line 4, exit 6. With the CGV to your right, head down the alleyway. On your right you will come to M Plaza. Haechi Hall is on the fifth floor.

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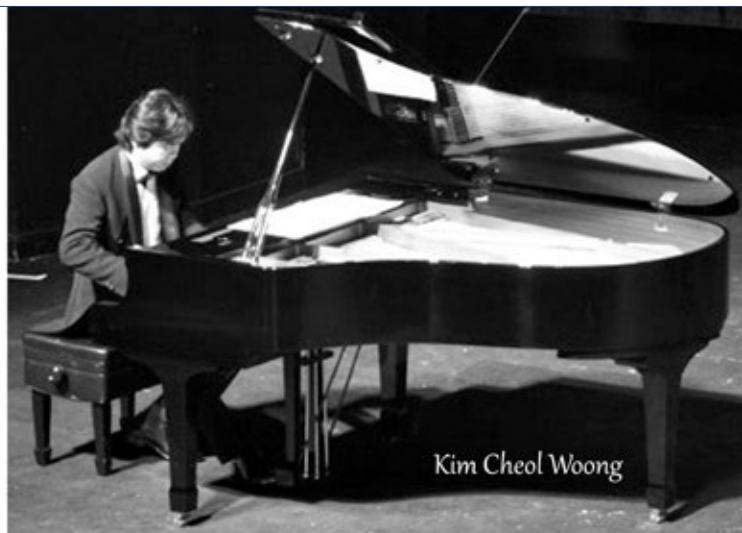
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OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE STUDIO

One expat forsakes teaching for a career in film

Story by **Emilee Jennings** and photo courtesy **NYK Media Group**

● Tired of teaching, one expat decided to quit and become a filmmaker. Now she's out to prove you really can follow your dreams, even in Korea.

The expat, Heather Yzaguirre, taught at an all-boys public middle school in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province, for two long years, and knew it wasn't her thing. She also knew what she'd rather be doing: making "good, meaningful films that are visually pleasing." This winter she began making films full-time, and after months of work she is ready to unveil a new short film, "Waygook Saram," at the Future Shorts Seoul film festival this summer.

"In Korea it's easy to feel like teaching is the only thing you can do here, but that's not true," Yzaguirre says. "There are so many more things you can do here if you're willing to work for it."

Already in love with Korea's capital, she kick-started her movie career in the heart of the city. Seeking the support of the Seoul Filmmaker's Workshop helped her learn something valuable about the country's blossoming film scene: "I realized I was the only female in the room. I knew there was a market for it and that I could capitalize on it."

And things just happened from there. She started working on other people's sets, and then on her own projects. "I always wanted to make my own movies, but I wanted to learn from other people's mistakes first before I started making my own."

Through filmmaker workshops, Yzaguirre dove

into a number of independent productions in Seoul. While working on the feature film "Amiss" (featured in Groove Korea's April issue) with expat directors Raoul Dyssell and William "Sonny" Sonbuchner, she heard about grants to sponsor filmmakers to create short films, and voilà — another opportunity, this time for her very own film.

Despite her hectic schedule working as a producer and assistant director, she was happy to learn that her film proposal won a grant and was selected for the Future Shorts Seoul film festival this summer. Since December, Yzaguirre has been toiling away on "Waygook Saram" — "foreigner" in Korean — which she describes as a foreigner-meets-foreigner love story based in Seoul.

"It's a film about two people having a conversation. It's a conversation somebody feels really moved by," she says. "They realize that they have the power to be happy, no matter what has happened in the past, or what happens in the future. If you can embrace one moment, then you can embrace several. It's also about moving on, in a sense."

For Yzaguirre, a short film should capture a special moment in time, and center around that moment throughout the film. "It's about a moment that somebody feels changes something, a really meaningful moment, so with this story I really had to come back down to that. I started getting excited thinking, 'Oh, and then we can do that and film this, and we



'I WANTED TO LEARN FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S MISTAKES FIRST BEFORE I STARTED MAKING MY OWN. I THINK THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY IN A FAST-PACED INDUSTRY LIKE THIS.'

— Heather Yzaguirre

can do time lapses,' and then I had to bring it back down and really remember what my basic idea was, and what my initial inspirations for this story were."

Working in independent films means having a minimalist budget, and so producers, as well as their actors, must quickly learn to work with what they have. "Random and unexpected things happen when you're working on a low-budget film," Yzaguirre says. The funniest episode, she says, was when a dog bit one of the actors. "I was thinking, 'Stay in character, stay in character,' and he did and it worked so well. So now I use this as a reference for all my actors: 'Even if you get bitten by a dog, stay in character!'"

The hardest part of getting going, she says, is overcoming insecurities and simply deciding to start. For that reason, Yzaguirre hopes to inspire other novice filmmakers to dive in and just do it. "Young filmmakers in Korea should get out and do what they want to do. Get a camera, get a few lights, and go to the filmmakers' meetings every month."

Even now, confidence is still an issue for her, and she wonders if her work will mean much in the big picture. "It was important for me to accept that people are going to say what they are going to say, and that no matter what happens, the world is going to keep turning," she says. "It's kind of like taking responsibility for things that you say. I've taken the responsibility of showing people something that I think is really important, and I hope that they think so, too."

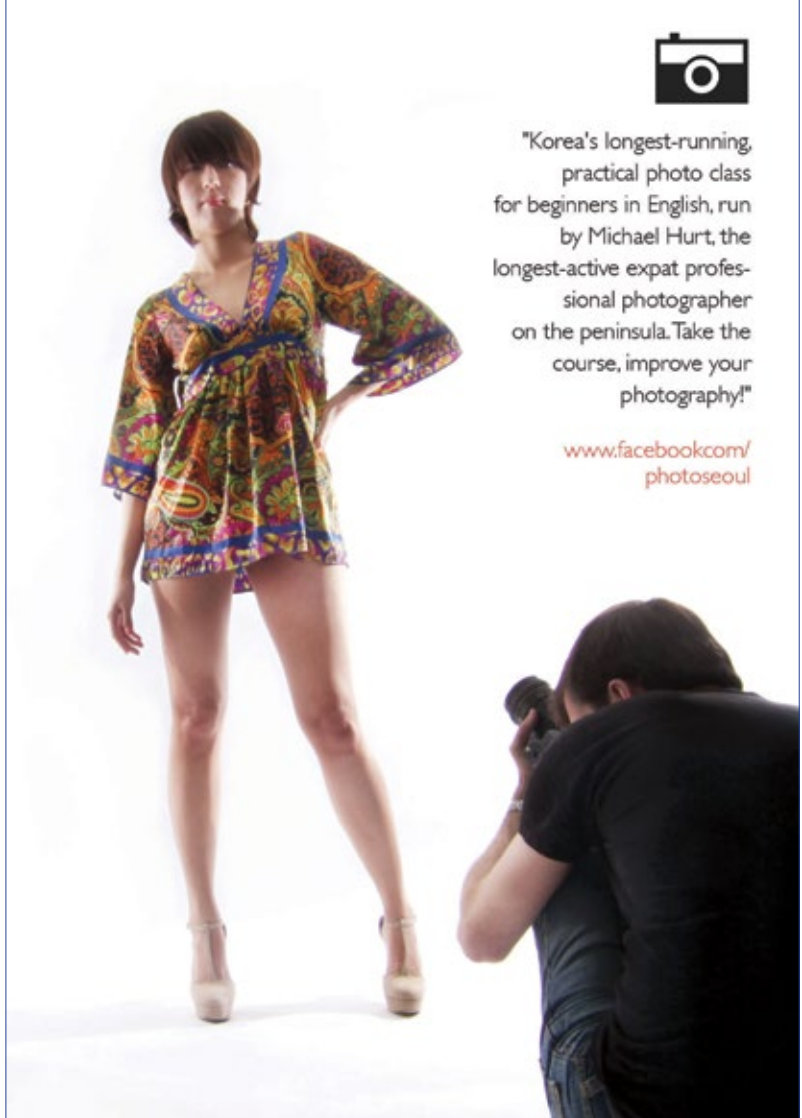
GROOVE

MORE INFO: "의국사람 (Waygook Saram)" will be shown on Aug. 10 at Platoon in Gangnam, along with 10 other short films from other major cities. For more information about Future Shorts and the filmmaker meetings, find "Seoul Filmmaker's Workshop" on Facebook.



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PASS THE 'POPCORN'

Probationary Theatre's most ambitious project to date

Story and photos by **Anna Sebel**

● Guns, blood, violence, sex and drugs don't sound like something one might associate with a night of comedy. In July, Probationary Theatre takes on its most ambitious project to date.

The expat-run theater company claims its production of Ben Elton's "Popcorn" may well be the most extravagant production yet. Despite the financial and logistical challenges the play has posed for White Box Theatre's technical director, Liam Mitchinson, he is adamant that the hard work will pay off.

"Despite its violence, I really think this is the most accessible show I've ever been involved in," he says. "It's very funny, very visual, very fast paced, with a heap of special effects. And of course it will be appearing with Korean subtitles. I think this play is an ideal introduction to theater for any movie buff that's never seen a play. It often feels like you're watching a Tarantino film live."

"Popcorn" is a dark comedy that centers on the unlikely Oscar victory of Bruce Delamitri and what he and his date find waiting at home after an all-night post-Oscar party. Bruce is a Hollywood director in the same vein as Oliver Stone and Wes Anderson. Over the next few hours, Scout and Wayne, two infamous mass murderers and self-proclaimed fans of Delamitri's movies, will hold Bruce's entire world hostage in front of a live television audience.

Yet, despite its perhaps misleading title and titillating use of glamour and violence, themes run deceptively deep. As the non-stop ac-

tion unfolds, the characters bring to the stage a number of issues, which, when boiled down, ask the audience to work out what really came first — the modern violent movie or the violent modern society.

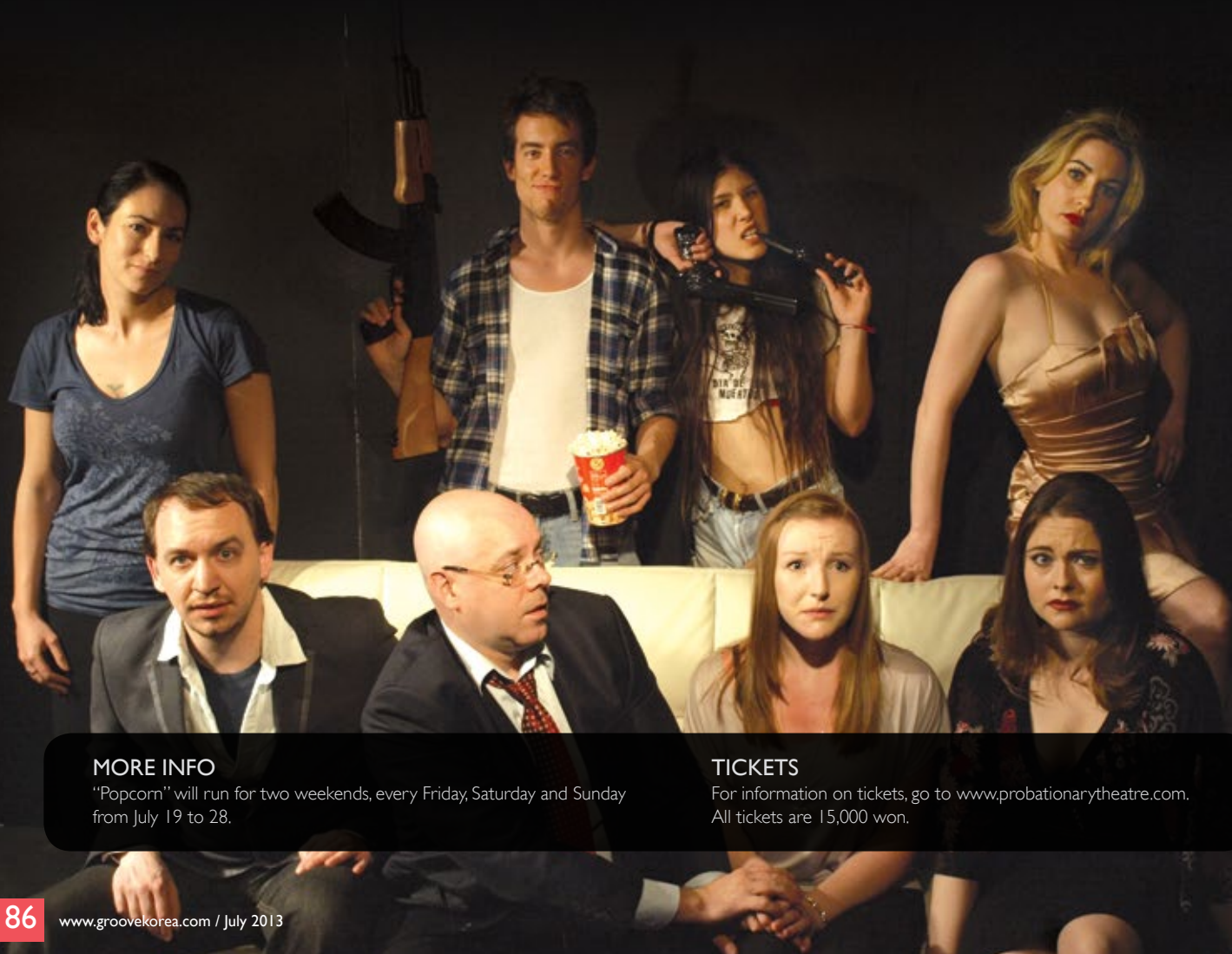
"The major theme in 'Popcorn' is responsibility, with an emphasis on how often it is avoided in times of crisis," explains director Kirk Dickens. "As an American, news from back home is full of negative reports: about the economy, unemployment, education, the war on terror ... you name it. Yet I can't remember the last time a prominent figure publicly took responsibility for something negative."

"Popcorn" is arguably the most successful of Elton's 13 novels; a bestseller that, when adapted for the stage, won both the Barclays Theatre Award for Best New Play and the Olivier Award for Best Comedy.

Yes, comedy. "It's been described as 'the closest you can get to Pulp Fiction, live.' I can certainly see the similarities, but I don't think that does justice to just how humorous the script is. It's not a black comedy; it's not a dark comedy. It's a genuine comedy. It's funny. Very, very, funny," says White Box Theatre creative director Desiree Munro.

Director Dickens agrees. "The cast were laughing out loud from the first read through, and things have only gotten better since then. Elton has written a script full of humor and intelligence without compromising one for the other."

GROOVE



MORE INFO

"Popcorn" will run for two weekends, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from July 19 to 28.

TICKETS

For information on tickets, go to www.probationarytheatre.com. All tickets are 15,000 won.



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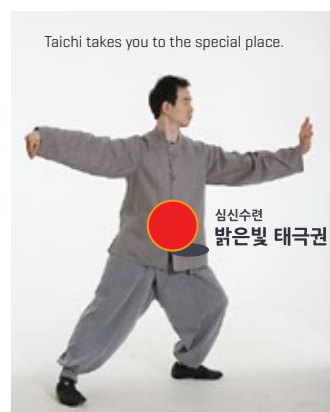
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Edited by Jihye Hong - jh@groovemediaco.kr

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This museum has a program called 'Experiencing Royal Culture' designed for English teachers to help learn about Joseon royal culture.

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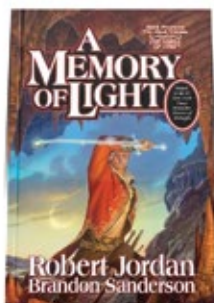
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the premier traditional Korean restaurant in Seoul.

Hadongkwan

This place simply has the best gomtang [beef soup] in Seoul.

Two Plus

[02] 515 5712 • B1 fl. 532-9 Sinsa-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
Served here is a high-quality beef loin at a reasonable price.

Tosokchon [Samgyetang]

[02] 737 7444 • 85-1 Chebu-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul
A popular Korean-style chicken soup with Jinseng is popular at this place. Former presidents enjoyed this restaurant. A soup costs just 15,000 won.

THAI & VIETNAMESE

R5 Thai Garden

[02] 792-8836 • 737-24, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Pho Hoa

[02] 792-8866 • 737-4, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

R6 Le Saigon

[02] 792-0336 • 74-33, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Yum Thai

[02] 594-7988 • 5-4 Nonhyun-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

ITALIAN & FRENCH

Trevia [Hannam-dong]

[02] 795-6004 • 738-25, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

R7 Trevia [Itaewon]

[02] 794-6003 • 557 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Their pizzas are Roman style, the thin, crispy dough comes out of the oven literally smoking hot.

R8 Le Cigale Montmartre

[02] 796-1244 • 123, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

R9 Pizzeria D'Buzza

[02] 794-9474 • 743-33, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul,
This trendy joint has a full range of Italian fare. Make sure to make a reservation.

R10 CasaAntonio

[02] 794-8803 • 124-6 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

R17 Vera Pizza Napoli

[02] 796-7223 • 729-74 Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
Fine Italian dining in a casual European style setting. Sticking to

traditional Napoli-style recipes, this place is one of the most authentic Italian pizza restaurants in Korea.



Vera Pizza Napoli

MEXICAN & TEX-MEX

Dos Tacos [Gangnam]

[02] 593-5904 • 104 Dession Luv, 1303-35 Seocho-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul
The best and largest taco franchise in Korea, try out their shrimp potato burrito.

R11 Urban Vatos

[02] 797-8226 • 181-8, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
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GrillStaco

[02] 515-5549 • 519-13 Sinsa-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

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STEAK & PASTA

See page 33 for a map

CHINESE & JAPANESE

R12 Songhwawon
 [02] 794-8522 • 743-34, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
 The one and only gochujang tangsuyook [fried pork with read pepper sauce] in Korea.

R13 Gida-sushi
 [02] 749-3558 • 683-125, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Ho Lee Chow
 [02] 793-0802 • 119-25, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Jin Donburi
 [02] 2235 1123 • 103-9 Jeodong 1-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
 The chef here trained in Japan and serves an authentic Japanese-style donburi [dongatsu over rice] at an affordable price. Gatsudong goes for 6,000 won.

DONGATSU

Dr. Oh's King-size Dongatsu / O Baksane Dongatsu
 [02] 3673 5730 • 131-32 Seongsu-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
 The place serves dongatsu the size of a car wheel. The restaurant dares you to finish it in one sitting.

Myungdong Dongatsu
 [02] 776 5300 • 59-13 Myungdong 1-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
 This is the most popular and oldest Japanese-style dongatsu restaurant in Myungdong. Try the wasabi.

Namsan Dongatsu
 [02] 777-7929 • 49-24 Namsandong 2-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul
 Since 1992, this casual Korean-style dongatsu restaurant has been a favorites of Namsan hikers and taxi drivers.

INTERNATIONAL

Copacabana
 [02] 796-1660 • 119 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
 29,000 won gives you All You Can Eat of the best Brazilian BBQ in Seoul. Located in the heart of Itaewon, it makes a perfect place to start your night.

Battered Sole
 [02] 322-8101 • 52-23 Changcheon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul
 Battered Sole is a relative newcomer, but they serve up some of the best fish and chips in Korea. This is the real deal.

Simply India
 [02] 744 6333 • 1-79 Dongsung-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul

VEGETARIAN

So True
 [02] 549 7288 • Jinseong Building, 58-6 Samseong-dong, Gangnam-gu
 blog.naver.com/julieintoday

Sanchon
 [02] 735 0312 • 14 Gwanghun-dong, Jongno-gu. www.sanchon.com

Veggie Holic
 070 4114 0458 • 204-59 Donggyo-dong, Mapo-gu. www.veggieholi.co.kr

DESSERT

R14 Tartine
 [02] 3785-3400 • 119-15, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
 Chef Garrett's Tartine features cherry pie, rhubarb pie, butter tarts and so many more. All made in house.

R15 Coffee Chu
 [02] 790-6821 • 682-10, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

R16 Takeout Drawing
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G'day [American & Brunch]
 053-746-1217 • 980-9 Suseongdong 4-ga, Suseong-gu, Daegu
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 • www.facebook.com/CafeGday

The Paris [Italian & French]
 [053] 763-8998 • 207-10 Doosan-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu

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Dos Tacos [Mexican & TEX-MEX]
 [053] 255-4885 • 34-4 Dongsung-ro 2-ga, Jung-gu, Daegu
PAN Asia [International]
 [053] 287-7940 • 2 fl., 21-9 Samdeok-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu

South st. [American]
 [053] 471-7867 • 664-10 Bongdeok 3-dong, Nam-gu, Daegu

Bagel Doctor [Café]
 [053] 421-6636 • Samdeokdong 2-ga, Jung-gu, Daegu

Miyako [Japanese]
 [053] 761-5555 • 402-5 Sang-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu

Beyond Factory [Italian/café]
 [053] 255-7614 • 40-63 Daebong-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu

Italy & Italy [Italian / French]
 [053] 423- 5122 • 22-2, Samdeok-dong 1-ga, Jung-gu, Daegu

La Luce [European]
 [053] 255-7614 • 40-63 Daebong-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu

Ariana Boccaccio Hotel Brau [Buffet]
 [051] 767-7913 • 200-1, Dusan-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu

BUSAN

Rock N Roll [Bar]
 • 2 fl, 56-5, Daeyeon 3-dong, Nam-gu, Busan

Wolfhound [Irish Pub]
 [051] 746-7913 • 2 fl, 1359, U 1-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan

Fuzzy Navel [Mexican Pub]
 [051] 754- 6349 • 178-13, Millak-dong, Suyeong-gu, Busan

Farmer's Hamburger [American]
 [051] 244-5706 • 35-1 Daechungdong 2-ga, Jung-gu, Busan

The Pho [Vietnamese]
 [051] 256-8055 • Saeabusan town, Sinchangdong 1-ga, Jung-gu, Busan

DRINKS

BEER

D1 Craftworks taphouse
 010-7666-1588 • 238, Noksapyeong-daero, Yongsan-gu,

Seoul
 The first expat-owned microbrewery in Korea still offers some of the best brews around. Try out their seasonal tastes in a warm and inviting ambience.

Magpie
 [02] 549.7778 • 691, Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

D2 Reilly's taphouse
 [02] 792-6590 • 3 floor, 123-32, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
 Reillys Taphouse boasts some 20 draft beers and is committed to carrying the best craft brews from Korea and around the world.



Reilly's taphouse

D3 3 Alley pub
 [02] 749-3336 • 116-15, Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Big Rock
 [02] 539-6650 • B1 818-8, Yeoksam 1-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
 This place imports premium beer from Alberta. Its comfortable atmosphere and huge space is perfect for just about every occasion.

D4 Wolfhound [Itaewon]
 [02] 749-7971 • Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, Korea

Wolfhound [Haeundae, Busan]
 [051] 746-7913 • 1359 Woo 1-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan

COCKTAIL & WINE

Between
 [02] 795-6164 • 124-7, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

D5 Noxa
 [02] 790-1334 • 671, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul
 This cozy neighborhood hangout in Itaewon specializes in cocktails and tapas. Check out DOJO, a downstairs bar with huge variety of alcohol on offer.



Noxa

B1
[02] 749-6164 • 119-7, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

Prost
[02] 796-6854 • 116-1, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

5th Lounge
[053] 764-3579 • 207-10 Doosan-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu
This fabulous lounge does just about everything right. If you're in search for space for private parties, this is the place.

Once in a blue moon
[02] 549. 5490 • 85-1 Chungdam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul
A live jazz club Seoul that hosts internationally renowned musicians from Korea and around the world.

SOJU/MAKEOLI

Mowmow
070-4078-8862 • 118-71, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

D6 Jeon (전 만평)
02-749-9993 • 123-3 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

SAKE

D7 Yuda
[02] 388-5081 • 683-126, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

D8 Muntaro
[02] 796-7232 • 683-124, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

NIGHTCLUBS

Octagon
• 175-2 Nonhyeon-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

Vera
• 356-1 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

Cocoon
• 364-26 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

NB
• 362-4 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

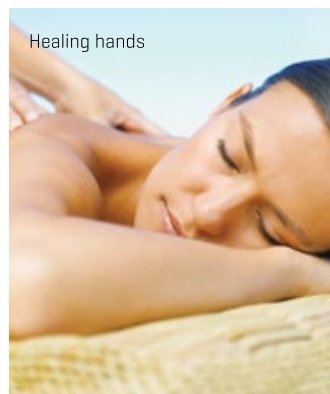
Eden
• Ritz Carlton 602 Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

Elune
• 1408-5 Jung 1-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan

Mass
• 1306-8 Seocho 4-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul

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A1 Healing hands
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[02] 363-4253 • 3 floor, Hongnam Building, 168-3, Donggyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

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[02] 325-2225 • 2 floor, 30-10, Chandcheon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul
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**KIM CHANG-SUNG, D.D.S., PH.D.**

Chairman and Professor
Department of Periodontology, Yonsei
University Dental Hospital

PERIODONTAL DISEASE SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

According to the Korea National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey, 70-80 percent of Koreans over the age of 40 have had periodontal disease at some point in their lives. Although periodontal disease is not detrimental to one's physical health, it can cause people to look much older than they are if left untreated. An accumulating body of evidence indicates that periodontal disease can be accompanied with "adult systemic disease."

Periodontal pathogens

Dental plaque can accumulate to dangerous levels in three days if oral hygiene is not performed. Dental plaque, a breeding ground of periodontal pathogens, can directly transform into dental calculus through calcification. Subsequently, more than 100 million bacteria proliferate on dental calculus.

The population of periodontal bacteria immediately leads to gingival inflammation, which is largely manifested as gingival bleeding. Gingival bleeding is a warning sign that people ought to seek periodontal treatment. If the patient neglects this symptom and does not visit a periodontal specialist, gingival inflammation can spread at a rapid rate and evolve into periodontal disease, which involves alveolar bone destruction. In that case, teeth mobility, along with acute abscess, is presented and sometimes the extraction of teeth is required.

Dental plaque in an early phase can be removed with proper tooth brushing. However, once a dental calculus is established,

it cannot be removed by simply brushing one's teeth. Accordingly, a periodontal specialist must remove the dental calculus and treat gingival inflammation.

What is the affected area? It is roughly the area of the palm of an adult's hand. A moderate case of periodontal disease means the inflammatory area is 8-20 square centimeters.

A temporary expedient

Drugs for gingival treatment do exist, but periodontal disease cannot be cured with medication. A wide range of herbal medicine and natural extracts can reduce inflammation and improve symptoms. However, the causal factors are not removed with this medication, which means it is only a matter of time before periodontal disease worsens.

In serious cases where patients relied on medication, multiple-tooth extraction might be required. Patients should not be tricked by marketing and should seek a periodontal specialist as soon as possible. A specialist can accurately diagnose and provide treatment that is tailored for individual patients.

Scaling is a useful way to prevent and treat periodontal disease because it eliminates periodontal pathogens, which are a primary cause of periodontal disease. Generally, a patient who has "systemic diseases" or undergoes periodontal surgery is recommended to get a scaling procedure roughly every three months.

Patients who maintain their teeth well are recommended to get a scaling every six months.

Periodontal, systemic diseases

There are interrelations between periodontal disease and systemic diseases. Systemic diseases such as nutritional imbalance, stress, smoking, heavy drinking, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases and rheumatoid diseases might be causes of periodontal disease. Surprisingly, periodontal disease might trigger or worsen systemic diseases, creating a vicious cycle of disease.

Diabetes mellitus is the most typical case. Diabetes has been known to aggravate periodontal disease, and periodontal disease has been known to aggravate diabetes and make it hard to control blood sugar level. This is due to an accumulation of inflammatory substances from periodontal infection and subsequent increasing levels of insulin resistance. Plus, periodontal pathogens can spread systematically via the bloodstream. Periodontal pathogens in the blood can weaken coronary vessels and form thrombi, which is very dangerous.

Rheumatoid disease can be caused by antigens of periodontal pathogens. Some types of cancers are reported to be related to periodontal disease, although there is limited evidence to prove this claim. The possibility of premature birth is higher in pregnant women who have periodontal disease. Women of childbearing age or those planning to get pregnant ought to visit periodontal specialists for preventive treatment. According to a recent report, women who have regular dental examinations and scaling treatment tend to have low risk of preterm birth.

For further dentistry information or reservations, please call Ms. Aeri Jo, the English coordinator at Yonsei University Dental Hospital.

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Horoscopes

July 2013



Aries / March 20 - April 20

Think before you speak, Aries. Before you have to pry your foot out of your mouth, keep in mind who you're talking to and what you're talking about. A lesson learned too late could put you in a sticky situation this month. Romance brightens the weekends. Scorpio is involved.



Libra / September 24 - October 23

An opportunity for advancement will seem to come out of nowhere. Before you decide to make a change, take a look at your long-term goals. Use your insight to better understand a friend's behavior. Everything is not as it seems. Family get-togethers are a highlight this month.



Taurus / April 21 - May 21

Simple pleasures give you the greatest joy this month. Time spent with family puts you in the right frame of mind. News of a breakup may come suddenly but it won't surprise you. Leo is involved. Change in the workplace means a new opportunity for you. Watch your temper.



Scorpio / October 24 - November 22

An unfair situation will be the topic of discussion. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion or even offer a solution; you could make a difference. A restless mood could interfere with your productivity at work later in the month. You may as well give in and take a break.



Gemini / May 22 - June 21

A Leo's decision will have a positive impact on your month. A small, but significant, part of your life will become much easier. Virgo's ideas provide food for thought. This month, cancelled plans leave you with free time to do whatever you please. Enjoy! Good news comes.



Sagittarius / November 23 - December 21

Setting unrealistic goals will only lead to disappointment. Be fair to yourself by going for what's reachable. A new friend could be the source of inspiration for a creative endeavor. Be patient with difficult family members — especially Aries. New romance looks promising.



Cancer / June 22 - July 22

A difficult choice hits you like a ton of bricks this month. Whether you spend seconds or days deciding, you'll come to the same conclusion if you follow your heart. A second meeting with Aries will change a bad first impression. Perhaps you misjudged the enigmatic ram.



Capricorn / December 22 - January 19

It's time to step in and involve yourself with a problem at work. Take a stand and let others know your feelings. A strange dream early in the month may provide clues into something that's been troubling you. Meditation helps you focus. Artistic endeavors run with success.



Leo / July 23 - August 23

A strange coincidence early in the month will renew your belief in fate. Been feeling down in the dumps lately? It may be time for a change of scene. A weekend getaway should charge your batteries. Gemini keeps you on your toes towards the month's end. Patience is required.



Aquarius / January 20 - February 18

An ongoing battle with a family member could be ironed out with some patience and understanding. Keep an open mind. If you've been putting off an important project, now's the time to dive in. You may find that it's not as hard as you thought it would be.



Virgo / August 24 - September 23

A sense of humor will come in handy early in the month. Your quick wit will be welcomed. Unexpected red tape will complicate a simple project. A romantic relationship needs some nurturing. Make the effort to do something special. Leo adds fun to the month.



Pisces / February 19 - March 19

Creative thinking helps you figure out a way to streamline your workflow. Don't be afraid to share your ideas with higher-ups. You may have to bid farewell to someone close to you. A bittersweet exit will put you in a melancholy mood. Positive thinking lifts your spirits.

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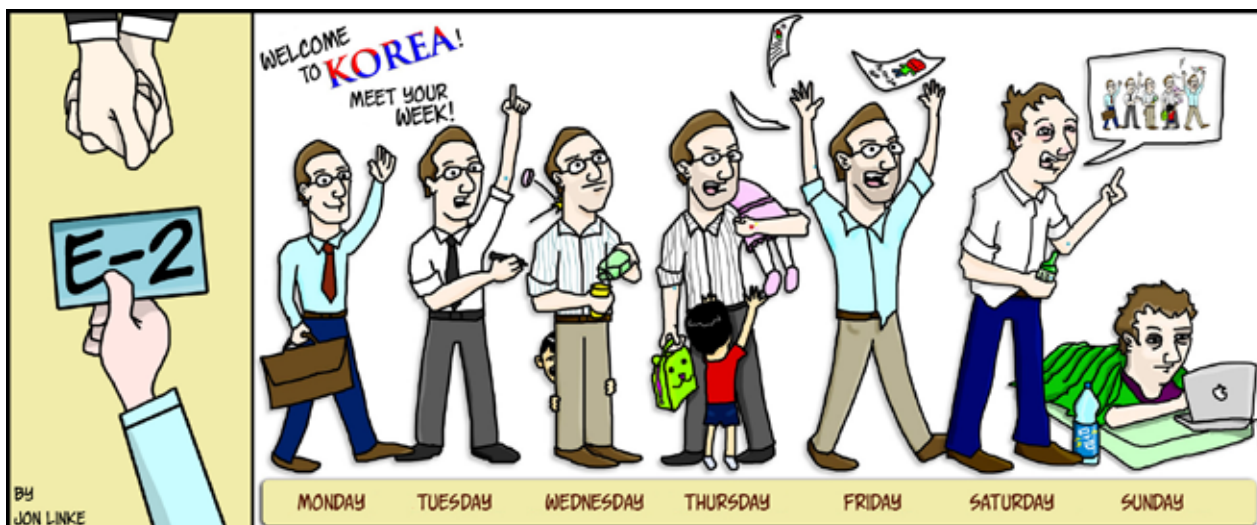
S. Ana Kim, DMD

Univ. of Pennsylvania DMD
Harvard Univ., Dep. of Orthodontics, Internship
Columbia Univ., Clinical Fellowship
UCLA Advanced Implant Certified



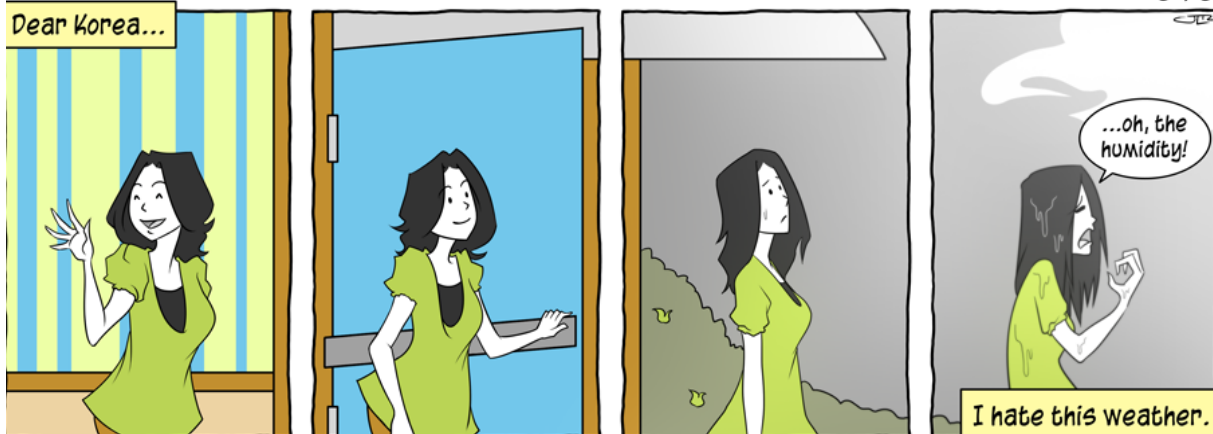
Comics

July 2013

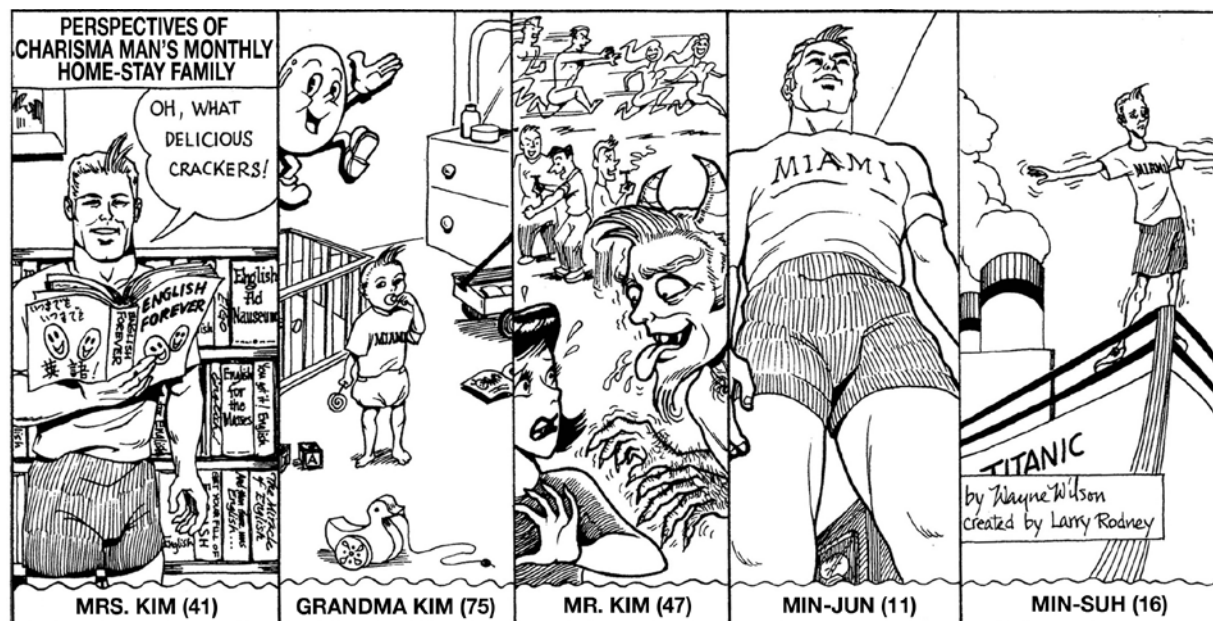


DEAR KOREA

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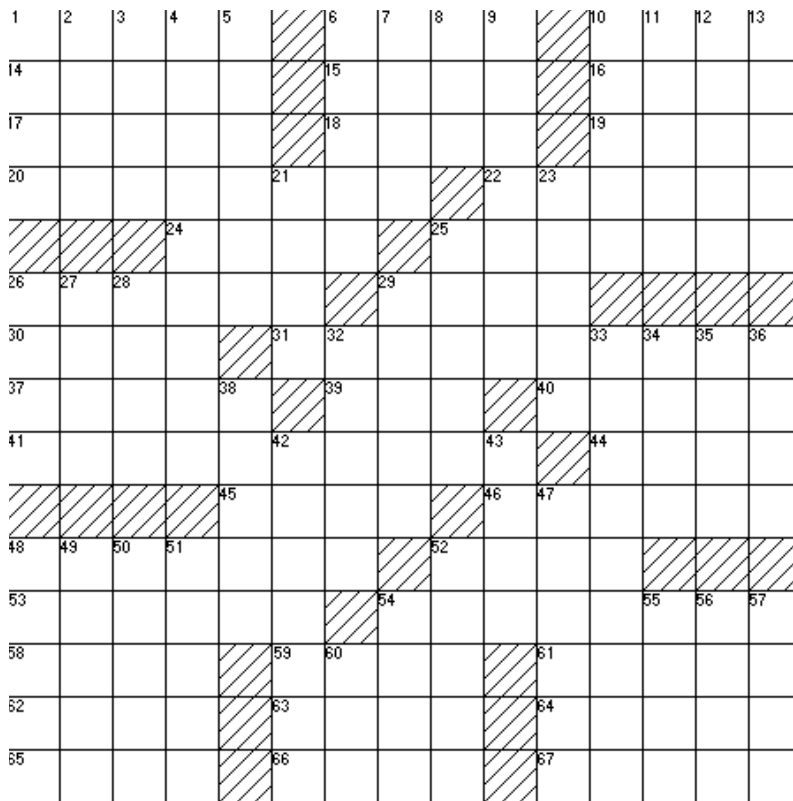
MELTING, JEN LEE



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Games

Crosswords - Sudoku



Across

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Large American wild cats | 29. Whine | 54. Sometimes called a Swedish turnip |
| 6. Seconds (abbrev.) | 30. Member of the lily family | 58. Percussion instrument |
| 10. Vend | 31. Performance practices | 59. Modern day Persia |
| 14. Seize | 37. Tree | 61. Australian outback painter Sidney _____ |
| 15. Process (abbrev.) | 39. Untruth | 62. Wander |
| 16. Threesome | 40. Remove | 63. Where the sun rises |
| 17. 2 masted sailing vessel | 41. Monotheists | 64. Handiwork |
| 18. Opera set in Egypt | 44. Electrical engineering group | 65. Singer _____ Fitzgerald |
| 19. Car | 45. Computer game | 66. Observes |
| 20. Sense of beauty | 46. Higher parts of the country | 67. Cutting instrument |
| 22. Soul or spirit | 48. French car manufacturer | |
| 24. Ferrous | 52. Small mountain | |
| 25. Searched | 53. Writer of "Proslogion", Italian theologian Saint _____ | |
| 26. Teeter-_____ | | |

Down

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Vomit | 25. Female ruler | 49. Sign up |
| 2. Puts into service | 26. Forbidden | 50. Common |
| 3. Mongrel | 27. Actor Ken _____ | 51. An asexual reproductive structure |
| 4. Frank Lloyd Wright was one | 28. Actress _____ Spelling | 52. Pursues |
| 5. Orb | 29. Small bottle | 54. Destroy |
| 6. Iberian country | 32. Poet T.S. _____ | 55. Jai _____, sport |
| 7. Norse for "Ruler of all" | 33. Born dead | 56. Iron hook on a pole |
| 8. Fish | 34. Region | 57. Initial wager |
| 9. Shoulder blade | 35. Security on a debt | 60. Actress Charlotte _____ |
| 10. Remains | 36. Hurried away | |
| 11. Belch | 38. Shade of green | |
| 12. Supple or limber | 42. Co-habitants | |
| | 43. Matching jacket and trousers | |
| 13. Went to the bathroom (slang) | 47. Quantum theory discoverer Max _____ | |
| 21. Unit of pressure | | |
| 23. Fortune tellers | | |
| | 48. Spanish for "Father" | |

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				8		3		6
4		2				7	8	
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PROMOTIONS

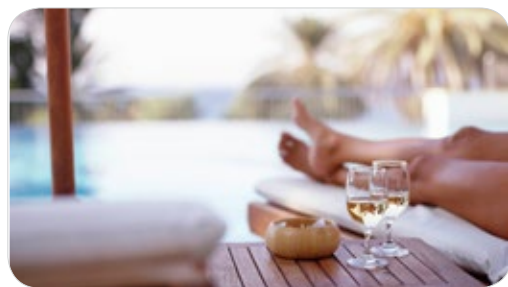
Edited by Sean Choi - sean@groovekorea.com

JW Marriott

Summer packages to suit every taste

From July 1 to Aug. 31, JW Marriott Hotel Seoul is offering two special summer packages to beat the heat. The Beer Party package includes fried chicken and cold beer. The Evening Picnic package includes a picnic set by the Han River. The price starts at 249,000 won. Both packages offer free entrance to the hotel's swimming pool, which they claim is the largest in Asia. Tax and service charges are exclusive.

For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 6282-6282.



Lotte Busan

Good Morning The Lounge

Lotte Hotel Busan offers a relaxing and healthy brunch for travellers. The two sets, Good Morning The Lounge Sandwich (sic) and Good Morning The Lounge Egg (sic), are served with 100 percent real fruit juice and coffee. They start at 29,000 won and are available until noon. A 20 percent discount is offered to hotel guests.

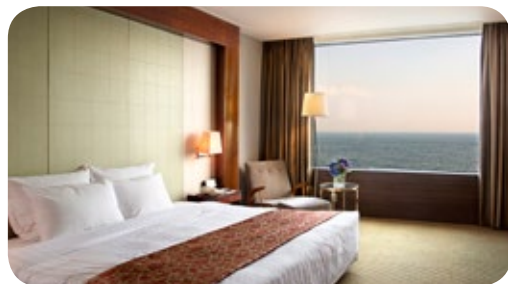
For inquiries and reservations, call (051) 810-6430.

Novotel Ambassador Busan

4 in 1 Suite package

Novotel Ambassador Busan presents the 4 in 1 Suite package for those planning a holiday to Haeundae beach this summer. The package includes a Family Suite room (one double bed and two single beds), a breakfast buffet, access to both the hot spring sauna and swimming pool for four people. It's priced from 290,000 won, plus additional charges for high season bookings and ocean view rooms. Subject to a 10 percent service charge and 10 percent tax.

For inquiries and reservations, call (051) 743-1234 and 743-1243.





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Park Hyatt Seoul

Homemade bingsu

Park Hyatt Seoul's Lounge presents a unique homemade bingsu (ice flakes) created with the chef's special recipes and freshest ingredients, including red beans, berries, tiramisu, pineapple, chocolate, cookies, jellies, nuts, homemade sauces and more. Four kinds of unique bingsu are exclusively available at Park Hyatt Seoul. Each bingsu serves two people and is priced from 33,000 won, including tax. No service charge applies.

For inquiries, call (02) 2016-1205 or (02) 2016-1206.



Park Hyatt Busan

Summer packages

Park Hyatt Busan offers two packages this summer: Family Fun at the Park and Summer Fun at the Park. The Family Fun at the Park package comes with a one night stay, breakfast and access to the hotel's playground. It also comes with two tickets to the Busan Aquarium. The Summer Fun at the Park package comes with an ocean view room and Lanvin perfume. The hotel provides a free shuttle bus to Haeundae Beach from July 22 to Aug. 15. The price starts at 265,000 won. Tax and service charges are exclusive.

For inquiries and reservations, call (051) 990-1300.

History museum

Special exhibition on Korean War

The National Museum of Korean Contemporary History commemorates the 60th anniversary of the armistice that halted the Korean War (1950-1953). The special exhibition will display photography, data and videos. They will show, among other things, the changes that took place in both South and North Korea in the years following the war. The exhibition period is from July 23 to Aug. 31 and is accompanied by academic seminars, educational programs and cultural events.

For more information, visit www.much.go.kr.



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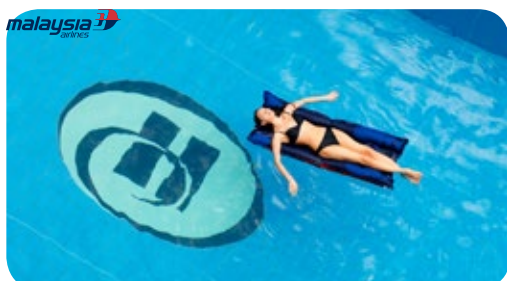
Edited by Sean Choi - sean@groovekorea.com

Club Med

Honeymoon specials

The international all-inclusive premium resort, Club Med Vacance Korea, presents Club Med Honeymoon Specials for newlyweds. The Honeymoon specials are for couples expecting to leave for their honeymoon by October. Make a reservation at least a month before departure and save up to 40 percent.

For inquiries and reservations, visit www.clubmed.co.kr or call (02) 3452-0123.



Grand Hilton

Holiday in the City

The Grand Hilton Seoul is bringing back its signature package Holiday in the City from June 16 to Sept. 5. Priced reasonably for couples and families, the five types of packages (Holiday in the City I, II & III and Family Vacation I & II) will make your summer nights memorable. They start at 182,000 won. Tax and service charges are exclusive.

For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 2287-8400.

Sheraton Grande Walkerhill

Splash Summer package

Sheraton Grande Walkerhill is promoting the Splash Summer package. Riverpark, the hotel's outdoor swimming pool, is open between June 22 and Sept. 1. There are three categories for the Splash Summer Package and each includes breakfast and entrance to Riverpark. They are priced from 235,000 won and available after June 22. Tax and service charges are exclusive.

For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 2022-0000.



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GANGNAM STYLE

PHOTO CHALLENGE

Photo by John Deacon

Photo Challenge

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Winner: John Deacon

Shot in: Seoul Place: Gangnam



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www.flickr.com/groups/seoulphotoclub



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For more information online, visit www.gangnamstay.com.

Call (02) 563-794.

Getting there

Gangnam Station is located on subway line 2. Visit www.smrt.co.kr for information on how to navigate Seoul subway's system.



Dongbu Ichon store wins
'BEST DESIGN'
Award

The Starbucks Dongbu Ichon store in Yongsan, Seoul, was chosen as one of 27 "Best Design" Starbucks locations in the world. Some 300 development and interior staff members at Starbucks selected the best designed newly opened stores around the world.

This year, Dongbu Ichon won first place in the Asia-Pacific region. The 90-seat duplex is located 15 minutes from Ichon Station. Its high-tech, glass curtain wall underlines the franchise's aesthetic aspects and openness. The interior boasts an environment-friendly design, with exposed concrete and wood. Its wooden furnishings are inspired by traditional patterns from the Shilla Dynasty. Those patterns, when combined with modern lighting, reflect Korea's rich cultural background.

"Starbucks strives to highlight a cultural specialty when designing each store. We are committed to presenting a third space experiencing opportunities to local communities," says Kim Je-ryong, manager of store development for Starbucks Korea.

Alongside the Dongbu Ichon location, other Best Design winners from the Asia-Pacific region include the Grove location in Pasig, the Philippines, the Ichihara branch in Chiba, Japan, and Han Chung in Taipei, Taiwan.





KUSAMA YAYOI, A Dream I Dreamed

2013. 7. 16. - 2013. 11. 3.

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Penélope Cruz, Palacio Marqués de Villafranca
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